

Welcome

These webpages are dedicated to **MARTIN CARVER**. They have been put together by friends and colleagues on the occasion of his retirement from the post of Professor at the Department of Archaeology of the University of York. They come in the form of an electronic scrapbook, illustrating aspects of the career of this ground-breaking field archaeologist, original thinker, generous mentor, inspiring speaker and skilled writer.

The webpages are organised in 5 sections which reflect 5 main areas of interest: **towns, field archaeology, Sutton Hoo, Tarbat, teaching at York and editing Antiquity**. On each page will be found images and short notes as well as references to Martin's publications in each of these sectors.

Martin's **curriculum vitae** gives the bare bones of a remarkable career, fleshed out in the appreciations left on these pages. They reveal a true champion of archaeology, always ready to embrace new ideas and generous with his own. He has encouraged countless students at York and in the field. He is also very good company, as the **valedictory messages** collected from former students show.

Retiring from the Department of Archaeology marks the passage from one phase of Martin's career to another, and the interface is, unsurprisingly, indistinct. We look forward to the next phase, with current and new projects, teaching, talking, editing and writing.

This website is available to download for printing as an Adobe .pdf file:

- **Martin Carver website PDF download**



Contact

M.O.H. Carver

Professor Emeritus, Department of Archaeology, University of York, King's Manor, York YO1 7EP, UK.

Email: martincarver@yahoo.co.uk

Editor, *Antiquity*, King's Manor, York YO1 7EP, UK. Tel/fax 0044 (0)1904 433994.

Website: <http://www.antiquity.ac.uk>.

Email: editor@antiquity.ac.uk

Director, Tarbat Discovery Programme, Portmahomack, Easter Ross, Scotland IV20 1RE

Director, Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, Unit A3, Parkside Commercial Centre, Terry Avenue, York YO23 1JP



Click an image to enlarge

Born 8 July 1941 in Glasgow, Scotland

BSc [General Science] University of London (external, 1968)
 Diploma in Anglo Saxon Archaeology, Durham University (1973)
 Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (1981) (Vice President 2002)
 Founder-member and secretary of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1982)
 Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society (1993)
 Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (1994)
 Corresponding Member of the German Archaeological Institute (2002)

Principal appointments

1959-1972	Army officer in Royal Tank Regiment
1968-1971	Adjutant, 4th Royal Tank Regiment
1971-1972	Ministry of Defence. Retired in rank of Captain
1973-1974	Postgraduate student, University of Durham
1974-1977	Director, West Midlands Rescue Archaeology Committee (WEMRAC)
1977-1986	Director, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU)
1983-2005	Research director, Sutton Hoo Research Trust
1986-2008	Professor of Archaeology, University of York (1986-1996 Head of Department)
1992-	Director, Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (1999- Chairman)
1994-	Research director, Tarbat Discovery Programme
2001-2002	Director, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York
2003-	Editor, <i>Antiquity</i>

Martin spent his childhood in Scotland, India, Hong Kong and England, then became an army officer (1959 to 1972), seeing active service in the Near and Far East. First educated as a scientist, he turned to archaeology, studying Anglo-Saxon art, archaeology, history and literature with Professor Rosemary Cramp at Durham. This led to a study of Anglo-Saxon illustrations of artefacts, focusing on BL Harley ms 603, later published in *Archaeologia* 108 (1986).

Between 1974 and 1986 Martin worked as a field archaeologist, first as free-lance and then from Birmingham University, undertaking a wide range of projects, many of them investigating early medieval towns in England. A DGRST fellowship in 1982 allowed him to explore urban archaeology in France (see 'Forty French towns', *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 2, 1983). Further fieldwork and excavations led him to Italy (Manerba and Castelseprio in particular) and Algeria (Achir). This work was published in a number of papers and summarised in books such as *Underneath English towns* (1987), *Arguments in stone* (1993) and *Archaeological value and evaluation* (2003).

In 1983 Martin was appointed to direct a new campaign of research at Sutton Hoo. Over a hectare was excavated during the 1983-1993 campaign, which pioneered a (then) innovative approach to evaluation, project design and integrated fieldwork. Seven burial mounds were examined including the intact burial under Mound 17 and its accompanying horse-burial. The excavations also brought to light two execution cemeteries. The publications stemming from this campaign argue that Sutton Hoo represented a short-lived attempt to create a distinctive kingdom in East Anglia, in alliance with Scandinavia and in opposition to the Frankish Christian power block. A multi-author review of the seventh century AD in north-western Europe (*The Age of Sutton Hoo*, Carver (ed.) 1992) preceded a popular synthesis of the campaign in 1998 (*Sutton Hoo: burial ground of kings?*). The full report was published in 2005 (*Sutton Hoo: a seventh-century princely burial ground and its context*).

In 1994 Martin began a new research project based around the 6-10th century Pictish settlement and monastery at Portmahomack on Tarbat Ness, Easter Ross in Scotland. As at Sutton Hoo, research at Tarbat has illustrated the changing ideology and allegiance of the early medieval community there, contributing to crystallise ideas on conversion (see *The Cross goes North*, Carver (ed.) 2003). The site work was completed in 2007, and a preliminary account published in 2008 (*Portmahomack: monastery of the Picts*). Tarbat also features in a popular account of the Picts (*Surviving in Symbols*, 1999). Work on the full research report is in progress.

Appointed Professor of Archaeology at the University of York in 1986, Martin was Head of Department from 1986 to 1996. During this time the Department built on its strength in medieval archaeology and began an expansion (later much developed) into areas of prehistory and bioarchaeology; it established a graduate school and moved to the heart of the city of York at King's Manor. Martin was also Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies at York in 2001-2002.

Martin has served on a number of academic bodies in Britain: on the archaeology panel of the Arts and Humanities Research Board in 1996-1999; the AHRC Subject Review panel (2005); the AHRC Postgraduate awards panel (2005-2007); the Council and Executive Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London

(1999-2006, the last three years as Vice-President). He has become increasingly active beyond the confines of Britain, teaching courses in Italy and Denmark, co-organising the Medieval Europe conference series, serving on a Danish Government research panel in 1996, and advising on excavation proposals at Gamla Uppsala (Sweden) in 2003. In 1999 he was appointed to the Council of the Discovery Programme, Republic of Ireland, and the archaeology panel of the Irish Humanities Research Board. He is currently a panel member for the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and of the European Research Council.

Martin has been Editor of *Antiquity* since 2003 and has been reappointed for a second tour in 2007 (until 2012). His passion for communicating archaeology at all levels - at countless meetings, from international conferences to local and student archaeological societies - has also led to a number of radio and TV broadcasts (BBC2 Sutton Hoo series and other British, American and German productions).

In the near future the publication of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wasperton (Warks) and the report on urban evaluation and excavation campaigns at Stafford will appear. These reports, together with the Tarbat research report, the editing of substantial early medieval collections, the preparation of the 2010 Rhind lectures (Edinburgh), books on field and world archaeology, further research and publication projects in Scotland, the editing of well over 1000 pages of *Antiquity* per year, and continuing to teach undergraduates at York will ensure that 'retiring' from the post of Professor at York is anything but retirement.

Contents:

- [Winchester](#)
- [York Bishophill](#)
- [York Minster write-up](#)
- [Durham](#)
- [Shrewsbury](#)
- [Worcester](#)
- [Lichfield](#)
- [Stafford](#)
- [Thinking about towns](#)

Martin's first, and continuing, interest is towns, not just as archaeological challenges, but as places for living. The early 1970s were an exhilarating time for urban archaeology and Martin, after volunteering on Martin Biddle's excavations in Winchester, jumped at the opportunities offered by urban regeneration in York, Durham and a series of towns in the West Midlands. These campaigns in the 1970s and 1980s led to the formulation of a framework which attempts to combine the physical properties of the deposits with both the research agenda and the value that citizens place on their living and working space: evaluation and project design. He developed his ideas in France ('Forty French towns', 1983) and brought them to maturity in the 1990s in York (*York development and archaeology*, 1991; *Arguments in stone*, 1993).

Digging towns was an adventure; some photographs would horrify Health and Safety officers today. But it was Martin's ability to come up with the most imaginative solutions on site, coupled with his facility for convincing anyone of almost anything that made working on his sites so exciting.

Winchester

Yet to be released from the Army in 1971-2, Martin began volunteering on Martin Biddle's excavations in Winchester. Long-haired and scruffy, but still legitimately wearing his Army jacket, he attracted Biddle's scorn for being a hippy in ex-Army kit showing no respect for the uniform. But once the misunderstanding was cleared up, Biddle became an influential early mentor and later supporter.

Martin (Carver) recalls in *Rescue News* (2006):

"Actually my first job was to mend the windows of an old school so it could be used as finds hut, but I was allowed on site after a week. A few days later I volunteered for work at the sharp end: a contractor preparing a site for building had encountered the Roman south gate and was having trouble getting its excellent 1900 year old concrete to shift. That gave us a week or so to dig. Working in a small team up against the clock was a thrill (...); Biddle, on site with us, infecting us with the pleasures of discovery, as the pile of broken stone between the piers of the Roman gate gradually declared itself as a 10th century Anglo-Saxon blocking wall."

[Back to top](#)

York Bishophill



[Click to enlarge](#)

After this first encounter with urban archaeology, Martin was invited in 1973 by Peter Addyman - for whom he had worked at Chalton - to join him at the newly-formed York Archaeological Trust to supervise the excavation of Bishophill. This Roman site with (public?) buildings of the 2nd-3rd centuries had been thoroughly robbed and cut up by medieval and later pits and buildings, providing good training in the craft of urban archaeology under Peter Addyman's generous guidance.

Peter Addyman writes:

Carving up Bishophill

"Martin Carver was an early recruit on the excavating staff of the York Archaeological Trust. From a standing start in 1972 the Trust pitched into a huge number of threatened archaeological sites in and around York. Diggers were recruited wherever they could be found and included students from all over the world. Supervisors were needed to marshal them into excavating teams, formulate excavation strategies and carry out complicated excavations in often deeply stratified urban deposits. This motley though convivial army was housed in communal hostel accommodation of the most rudimentary sort.

By 1973-4 both Martin Carver and Madeleine Hummler were part of the York effort, Martin as a supervisor and Madeleine as an expert student digger from Switzerland. They worked on different sites, Madeleine on a huge urban cemetery belonging to the lost church of St Helen-on-the-Walls in Aldwark.

Martin, however, eventually became officer commanding a quite different excavation, a block of urban landscape on Bishophill, south west of the river Ouse. Here there was deep stratification the upper part of which comprised innumerable medieval pits and dumps, all cutting and intercutting and mainly composed of seemingly identical black sediments. Martin thought it a waste of time to try to disentangle this chaos and hammered it all off - despite imprecations, direct orders and even quite explosive sense-of-humour failures from above. He may have been right, and anyway managed to disentangle quite impressive if heavily robbed Roman buildings at the base of it all.

Martin's urban archaeology experience in 1970s York stood him in good stead - but not half so good as the life partner Madeleine whom he recruited from York."

PETER ADDYMAN



References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1976. [Roman, medieval and post medieval structures at Bishophill] in P.V. Addyman *Excavations in York 1973-1974: second interim report* 2-5, 12, 15-17, 25. York: York Archaeological Trust.
- 1978 (with S. Donaghey & A. B. Sumpter). *Riverside structures and a wall in Skeldergate and buildings in Bishophill* (The Archaeology of York - the Colonia, Volume 4, fascicule 1). London: Council for British Archaeology.

[Back to top](#)

York Minster write-up



[Click to enlarge](#)

Upon returning to York to head its University Department of Archaeology in 1986, Martin was able to play a part in the publication of the jewel of York, the Minster. Derek Phillips and the entire archive of the 1960s excavations under York Minster were lodged in Micklegate House, the (then) home of the Department of Archaeology. Derek was a brilliant excavator but swamped by the sheer volume of records. With Martin's encouragement and editing, and diplomatic liaison with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, and thanks to Brenda Heywood's meticulous research, Volume 1 of York Minster was published in 1995.

Martin contributed an interpretation of the York Minster sequence from Roman fortress to Norman cathedral in the volume. It offers not one interpretation, but three - the second being his preferred model. Model A proposes that there is no occupation between the 5th and 8th centuries; Model B suggests sub-Roman activity in the basilica and the centurions' quarters, but no early Anglian phase, with occupation returning in the 9th century in an Anglo-Scandinavian Minster precinct; Model C (that put forward by Phillips & Heywood) posits that there is continuous occupation, but much change of use, between the 5th and 9th centuries.



[Click to enlarge](#)

References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1995 (ed.) (with A.D. Phillips & B Heywood). *Excavations at York Minster. Volume I: from Roman fortress to Norman cathedral*. Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.
- 1995. Roman to Norman at York Minster, in M.O.H. Carver (ed.) *Excavations at York Minster. Volume I: from Roman fortress to Norman cathedral: 177-221*. Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.

[Back to top](#)

Durham

While a postgraduate at Durham in 1973, Martin was soon distracted from his research on Anglo-Saxon manuscript illustrations, at New Elvet in Durham and in Bishop Auckland. Both sites provided opportunities to pick up a moribund site or archive, arrange further investigation and bring it to publication.

If these interventions could still be conducted while pursuing research in the library, things changed in 1974 with the excavation of an urban sequence on the Castle mound and at Saddler Street. The excavation of three Late Saxon tenements with bow-sided buildings and middens deep under the fabric of Durham, with excellent preservation of organic remains, proved decisive. Professor Rosemary Cramp, his thesis supervisor, let him go to earn a living as a 'rescue' archaeologist. She has always been his most supportive mentor and incisive critic.



[Click to enlarge](#)



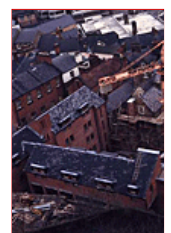
[Click to enlarge](#)

Rosemary Cramp writes:

"When I interviewed Captain Carver for a post-graduate place on the Anglo-Saxon course, I encountered an immaculate upright figure with highly polished shoes, but contact with field archaeology and its practitioners soon changed all this, as this image shows: Martin and fellow graduates [Brian Gill, Paul and Sarah Gosling] in intimate contact with early medieval sculpture."

ROSEMARY CRAMP (see also her entry under Sutton Hoo)

Saddler Street posed a logistical challenge. The excavation of the three adjacent cellars, with the British Legion building towering menacingly more than 10m above, left no room for spoil heaps. So a motorised winch was hired which lifted every single wheel-barrow three floors up to be dumped in the hall above. There were a couple of narrow scrapes, when the shoring of the castle trench was temporarily loosened and the sides collapsed, and when a reinforced glass window came crashing five floors down, fortunately on the team's day off.



[Click to enlarge](#)



[Click to enlarge](#)

The 4-months campaign resulted in a remarkable sequence, modelled here in Martin's sketch in *Medieval Archaeology* (1979). Working on the stratigraphy and the material culture of Saddler Street was also instrumental in the formulation of firmly held, and strongly advocated, principles of recording and analysis. Contexts, features and structures, approaches to seriation and deposit modelling have become a frequent topic of publication - and sometimes controversy.

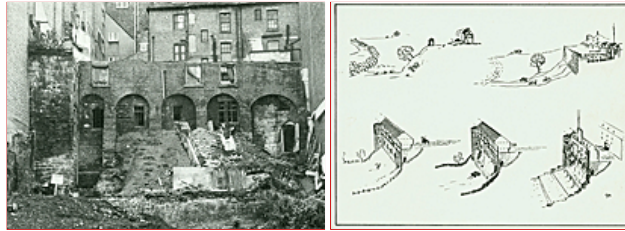
References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1974. Excavations in New Elvet, Durham City, 1961-73. *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5th series 2: 91-148.
- 1975. Durham: dating the Saxon settlement. *The Times* 9 January 1975.
- 1976 (with P.F. Gosling). The archaeology of Durham City, in D. Harding (ed.) *Archaeology in the North: report of the Northern Archaeological Survey*: 132-45. Newcastle: Northern Archaeological Survey & HMSO.
- 1978. Deanery buildings at St Andrew Auckland, Co Durham. *Transactions of the Durham and Northumberland Architectural and Archaeological Society* 4: 81-84.
- 1979. Three Saxo-Norman tenements in Durham City. *Medieval Archaeology* 23: 1-80.
- 1980. Early medieval Durham: the archaeological evidence, in *Medieval art and architecture at Durham Cathedral* (British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions 3, 1980 for 1977): 11-19.

[Back to top](#)

Shrewsbury

Investigations (1972-1974) and salvage recording (1978-1980) at Pride Hill Chambers and Rigg's Hall in Shrewsbury revealed the structural history of two town houses 200m apart. Both covered part of the Late Saxon settlement at Shrewsbury and were on the course of the 13th-century town wall. They incorporated this wall in their foundations and developed between the 14th and 17th century in fine stone and timber-framed (later brick) style, as shown in Martin's sketch for Pride Hill (in *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society* 61).



[Click images to enlarge](#)

Shrewsbury illustrates recurrent features of Carver campaigns: an ability to get on with previous investigators - in this case Ernie Jenks and Geoff Toms who had valiantly recorded Pride Hill under difficult conditions - and giving responsibility to younger team-members. Shrewsbury's publications contain contributions by many who were then starting out in archaeology, such as Jan Wills, Elaine Morris, Nigel Baker, Cameron Moffett and Sue Colledge. Pride Hill and Rigg's Hall also combined below- and above-ground archaeology, with fine building recording and analysis by Phil Clarke at Pride Hill and many others at Rigg's Hall. In the 1980s Pride Hill Chambers became a MacDonald's restaurant with a plaque recording earlier glories. *Sic transit...*

References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1974 (with J. Wills). *Shrewsbury - the buried past: the threatened archaeology of Shrewsbury and its recovery*. Shrewsbury (booklet).
- 1975. Archaeology in Shrewsbury. *Rescue News* 9.
- 1978. Early Shrewsbury: an archaeological definition in 1975. *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society* 59 (1973-4, issued 1978): 225-63.
- 1982 (ed.). *Two town houses in medieval Shrewsbury: the excavation and analysis of two medieval and later houses built on the town wall at Shrewsbury* (*Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society* 61). Shrewsbury: Shropshire Archaeological Society.

[Back to top](#)

Worcester

In 1976 the opportunity to excavate a sequence from Roman to late medieval within the city of Worcester presented itself at Sidbury, after Sue Hirst had recorded the town wall sequence nearby in 1975. The long hot summer was spent digging and recording Sidbury's pebble street and yards, strewn with cattle butchery remains (a Roman shambles) and 10th-17th century features belonging to tenements where bone-workers, bronze-smiths and bell-makers were active. It was difficult to obtain good overhead shots of the entire area of excavation, but the problem was overcome when Martin managed to talk the Worcester Fire Brigade into carrying out an exercise on Sidbury. They extended their ladder to full length and allowed Martin to climb to the top - not before making him sign a paper discharging them of responsibility in case of mishap.



[Click images to enlarge](#)

At Shrewsbury Martin had already begun to collect data relevant to the depositional history of all archaeological remains on the peninsula, but it was in Worcester that urban evaluation was fully developed and published (1981).

References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1981. The excavation of three medieval craftsmen's tenements at Sidbury, Worcester, in *Medieval Worcester - an archaeological framework* (*Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*): 155-219.
- 1981 (ed.). *Medieval Worcester - an archaeological framework* (*Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*). Worcester: Worcestershire Archaeological Society.
- 1981. Introduction: an archaeology for the City of Worcester, 680-1680, in *Medieval Worcester - an archaeological framework* (*Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*): 1-12.
- 1981. The site and settlement at Worcester, in *Medieval Worcester - an archaeological framework* (*Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*): 15-30.
- 1981. The excavation of three medieval craftsmen's tenements at Sidbury, Worcester, in *Medieval Worcester - an archaeological framework* (*Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*): 155-219.
- 1981. A kiln found at Diglis in 1860, and documentary evidence for potting and tiling in medieval Worcester, in *Medieval Worcester - an archaeological framework* (*Transactions of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society*): 255-60.

[Back to top](#)

Lichfield

In 1977 the small band of excavators that had grown within WEMRAC took up quarters in the disused Theological College in Lichfield's Cathedral Close. The building had a reputation for being haunted. Whether you believed it or not, the place was a strange setting for excavation headquarters, reminiscent of Trollope's *Warden*.



Click images to enlarge

Excavations were a transect in the College's garden, leading down to the Minster Pool and trenches elsewhere in the 12th century town south of the Pool, leading to publication of the evaluation of Lichfield's urban deposits in 1982, an early attempt at characterising this Mercian city, where St Chad established a seat in AD 669.

Emma Carver grew up on Martin's sites together with her brother Jay. She writes:

"This was a strange but memorable summer. We stayed in the spooky and deserted Theological College (think Scooby Doo). Our fears were put on hold by Martin's nightly episode of the epic saga of Stephen the Sheep [a story made up by Martin] at that time in its second or third year. We waved our flags as the Silver Jubilee parade passed through the Cathedral Close and the Sex Pistols were Number 1. Jay was crowned king of the lupins on a throne atop the spoil heap."

EMMA CARVER

The image of the team Emma took shows from left to right, back row: Tim Yarnell, Roy Hooper, Debbie Ford, Liz Hooper; front row, left to right: Sue Colledge, Madeleine Hummler, Martin, Mike Hodder and Jay Carver.



Click to enlarge

References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1982. Excavations south of Lichfield Cathedral 1976-77. *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society* 22 (1980-1981): 35-69.
- 1982 (ed.). [The archaeology and history of early Lichfield] *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society* 22 (1980-1981): 1-129.
- 1982. The archaeology of Early Lichfield - an inventory and some recent results. *Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society* 22 (1980-1981): 1-12.

[Back to top](#)

Stafford

Given half a chance, Martin will grow eloquent about Stafford, a burh founded by King Alfred's daughter Aethelflaeda in AD 913. There, in 1975 (Clarke Street) and from 1979 to 1985 (St Mary's Grove and four other main sites) a large urban excavation and evaluation campaign was conducted, expanding into a survey of the urban topography and the analysis of environmental data from the King's Pool (Sue Colledge, James Greig, Lisa Moffat). Amongst highlights is the rescuing of kilns of roulette-decorated Late Saxon Stafford ware on a Sunday morning, while the developer's mechanical excavators were quiet (the kilns are at the base of the dark deposits in the section illustrated here).

Stafford was a year-round campaign, with a team supervised by Jon and Charlotte Cane. Amongst team members were Jenny Glazebrook, and Malcolm Cooper. Debbie Ford, an early student of Martin's, went to Stoke-on-Trent Museum, publishing her work on Stafford ware.



Click to enlarge



Click images to enlarge

The Stafford archive and field reports were (re)compiled and the five main sequences analysed in 2008 during a sabbatical granted to Martin by the University of York. The full report is to follow, with publication by Boydell Press expected in 2011, and the archive deposited with ADS at York.

Jenny Glazebrook, who was to become the Sutton Hoo project administrator and later managing editor of *East Anglian Archaeology*, made her apprenticeship of field archaeology in the West Midlands and especially at Stafford. She writes:

Stafford and MA in Archaeological Practice

"Working with Martin Carver on excavations at Coleshill in the West Midlands, field archaeology suddenly began to make sense. What had seemed an opaque and rather secretive process for the first two years of my undergraduate degree became an adventure ... an expedition into the past. Further expeditions followed at Castle Farm near Shi'nal, at Stafford and then Sutton Hoo. These projects were characterised by energetic leadership, strong team spirit, clear goals and a sense of purpose. Research strategy and methodology were set out at the start and developed with the team as work progressed."



Click images to enlarge

During these years, responsibility was delegated in generous measure to site supervisors, who were put in charge of field projects and encouraged to put theory into practice. Some were Birmingham undergraduates completing Martin's Year Out, or postgraduates like me studying for the MA in Archaeological Practice which he established in 1982 [the photographs Jenny contributes show her and Martin at the hillfort of Nadbury, where the team of the MA in Archaeological Practice, Catrina Appleby, Cathy Royle, Andy Copp and Jenny undertook an evaluation in 1983]. I first worked in Stafford as an undergraduate, with Martin and Madeleine, toting a theodolite and staff through the streets and contributing a batch of readings to Stafftop, a topographical survey of the town centre. Later, under Martin's supervision, I would carry out a deposit modelling exercise in Stafford as my MA dissertation. Site evaluation, research design, recording system, predictive mapping, archaeological potential, urban hinterland: these were the themes of the day. BUFAU Guides evolved from 1979 to 1983, providing a comprehensive recording system for archaeological field projects, and later, forming the basis of the Sutton Hoo project record and computerised database management system. I still have my set of guides, many in Martin's own handwriting. Years later, working on a community history project, I dusted them down and they provided a timely reminder of what was required.

We were well-drilled in the idea of excavation 'powered by the urge to understand'; we knew that 'to have facts is not the same as to have knowledge' and that 'the pursuit of meaning requires targets, strategies, and methods' Underneath English towns (Carver 1987, 112). This was a theme Martin later developed in the Dalrymple lectures of 1990 (Arguments in stone, Carver 1993) and it has been for me a rewarding principle to steer by."

JENNY GLAZEBROOK

Malcolm Cooper, later to become an English Heritage inspector and then chief inspector at Historic Scotland, first became acquainted with archaeology at Stafford. He writes:

"A short story to start. I still remember vividly the great hall at my school in Stafford where we had to register for work experience following our O-levels. We had been told in our class-room earlier that day that one of the possibilities was to join an archaeological excavation in Stafford in the English Midlands. I ran to the hall to register and I spent an extraordinary few weeks excavating on the edge of the late Saxon town (and meeting many archaeologists who were to become colleagues and friends including, of course, Martin and Madeleine). After this it was inevitable that I would follow archaeology as a career - despite the strongest of opposition from my school - and that I would go to Birmingham University, the course including a 'year-out' working with Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit then directed by Martin.



In a way this story illustrates many things about Martin. A strong interest in the past, in urbanism and in late Saxon society. An intense interest in archaeological methodology and the desire to bring an intellectual debate to what was still seen by many as simply a technical skill. But for me more importantly than all of these, an unswerving passion for helping people at whatever age or whatever their background to develop their interest in archaeology and heritage, to encourage them to challenge accepted orthodoxy, to motivate and, above all, to give them unrivalled opportunities in the profession by giving unquestioning support. Quite simply I owe my career in heritage to you Martin - have a great retirement but don't stop!"

MALCOLM COOPER

References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1981. *Underneath Stafford town: an archaeological assessment*. Stafford (booklet).
- 1983 (with C.B.K. Cane & J. Cane). Saxon and medieval Stafford, new results and theories 1983. *West Midlands Archaeology* 26: 48-65.
- Full report in preparation, to be published as *Birth of a borough: investigations into Anglo-Saxon Stafford 1975-85* by Boydell in 2011.

[Back to top](#)

Thinking about towns (MOHC bibliography)

This section contains bibliographical references to publications on urban archaeology not already mentioned in the site-specific references listed by towns.

- 1981. Sampling towns: an optimistic strategy, in P.A.G. Clack & S. Haselgrove (ed.) *Urban archaeology in the North: approaches to the urban past*: 1-28 (Durham University Occasional Paper 2): 65-91. Durham: Council for British Archaeology Regional Group 3.
- 1983. Forty French towns: an essay on archaeological site evaluation and historical aims. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 2: 339-78.
- 1983. Valutazione strategica ed analisi nei siti pluristratificati. *Archeologia Medievale* 10 (1983 [1984]): 49-72. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio.
- 1984. Theory and practice in urban pottery seriation. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 12: 353-66.
- 1984. Archeologia urbana in Europa, in G.-P. Brogiolo (ed.) *Archeologia urbana in Lombardia: valutazione dei depositi archeologici e inventario dei vincoli*: 9-21. Modena: Panini.
- 1984. Review of R. Shoesmith *Hereford City excavations 2: excavations on and close to the defences* in *Antiquaries Journal* 64: 176-8.
- 1987. *Underneath English towns: interpreting urban archaeology*. London: Batsford.
- 1987. The nature of urban deposits, in J. Schofield & R. Leech (ed.) *Urban archaeology in Britain* (CBA Research Report 61): 9-26. London: Council for British Archaeology.
- 1991 (ed. with Department of Archaeology, York and Messrs Ove Arup & Partners). *York development and archaeology study*. English Heritage.
- 1993. *Arguments in stone: archaeological research and the European town in the first millennium AD* (being the Dalrymple Lectures for 1990) University of Glasgow & Oxford: Oxbow.
- 1997 The values of urban archaeology, in *Challenge and opportunity: managing the urban archaeological heritage of England*. Lincoln: City of Lincoln.
- 2000. Town and anti-town in the first millennium Europe, in A. Buko & P. Urbańczyk (ed.) *Archeologia w teorii i w praktyce: praca zbiorowa* (Festschrift Stanislas Tabaczynski): 373-6. Warsaw: IAiE PAN (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences).

[Back to top](#)

Contents:

- [Chalton](#)
- [Shropshire](#)
- [Warwickshire](#)
- [Italy](#)
- [Algeria & France](#)
- [Thinking about Field Archaeology](#)

Outside towns, excavations, and increasingly integrated fieldwork projects, brought Martin to more rural settings, starting with Peter Addyman's excavations at Chalton. The approach developed in towns matured over the course of these projects, leading to a substantial body of publications which advocate a staged approach to field archaeology. Generations of students who have taken Martin's Field Research Procedure course or been in the field with him will recognise this approach. They will also recognise the discipline of a Carver excavation in small details: spoil heaps under control, strings straight, trowelling lines marshalled. But there was always time for lively debate and an active scene off-site.

Chalton

Peter Addyman writes:

Martin Carver's first time with the Saxons

"I can't remember how Captain M.O.H. Carver found out about the University of Southampton's 1970s dig on the top of the chalk down at Chalton in Hampshire but he turned up offering, as so many do, little experience of archaeology but an enthusiastic willingness to work. He was about to exchange a military career for something else, he wasn't quite sure what, and loosening family ties gave him unlimited scope.

Military training prepares you for anything and Martin soon found archaeology an attractive version of anything. At least as represented by the black-on-white features of the Chalton Saxon settlement, it seemed a doddle and he soon found himself a site supervisor in charge of the excavation of Structure 21.

Structure 21 was an extremely bad structure for a tyro to start on. With clearly visible foundation trenches precisely cut into bright virgin chalk all filled with dark humic material it posed absolutely no archaeological or interpretational problems whatsoever. To give him his due, Martin excavated it impeccably, but the experience must have given him the impression that Anglo-Saxon archaeology was going to be easy.

Martin grasped the opportunities provided by the après-dig culture at Chalton, soaking up the enthusiasms and expertise of a number of up-and-coming young Anglo-Saxonists and before long was asking how he could break into a career in Anglo-Saxon archaeology. I pointed him at Rosemary Cramp's post-graduate courses at Durham - and conned him into coming to York with me to get different experience in the more challenging conditions of a deeply stratified urban site (see [Carving up Bishophill](#)) where things were not black-on-white but emphatically black-on-black."

PETER ADDYMAN



[Click to enlarge](#)

Catherine Hills writes:

"I met Martin in August 1972 when we were both site supervisors at Chalton, an Anglo-Saxon settlement site in Hampshire excavated by Peter Addyman (and later by Tim Champion). This was a chalky hill, occupation levels long ploughed away (though pottery was recovered by a schoolboy, a certain Barry Cunliffe). The buildings survived as rectangles of postholes packed with chalk and flints - except for Martin's building, which was post-in-trench, a construction then new to us. At Yeavinger Hope-Taylor had already excavated more complex buildings but these were not then published and so not widely known.



[Click to enlarge](#)

It seemed that we needed concrete evidence to persuade others of the reality of this phenomenon, and a section of the trench, showing the post sockets, was preserved for posterity. Martin sprayed it with plastic and sliced off the resulting solid plank of chalk and soil, as shown in the picture. Is it still languishing in a store room in Southampton?

The most dramatic event of that season was the fire in the middle of the night which burnt down the barn where most of us were sleeping - we all got out OK. Martin was living locally with his family and turned up with blankets next morning.

Later I saw him up a ladder drawing stones at Deerhurst, in a caravan in a cemetery in York and at Sutton Hoo where I was one of the committee which regularly came for a day out, ending with one of Martin's brilliant site tours. And even in the farthest north at Tarbat where he lured us for a seminar last year.

Where next? "

CATHERINE HILLS



[Click to enlarge](#)

Reference (MOHC bibliography)

- 1973. Documentary sources for the topography of the Chalton area. Appendix in P.V. Addyman & D. Leigh: The Anglo-Saxon village at Chalton, Hampshire:

[Back to top](#)

Shropshire: Ludlow and Castle Farm, Shifnal



[Click to enlarge](#)

While evaluating the urban fabric at Shrewsbury it was inevitable that there would be the need to respond to other 'rescue' situations in rural Shropshire, for example at Ludlow (traces of Beaker and Romano-British occupation on the site shown in an air photograph here) and at Castle Farm, Shifnal, near the new town of Telford.

There the imminent construction of a reservoir targeted a hillfort, published with another of Martin's early students and lifelong friend, Annette Roe (shown here with Malcolm Cooper, Mark Taylor and Jenny Glazebrook). The summer of 1980 was incredibly wet, and the team sheltering in the derelict Castle Farm developed cabin fever to a fairly alarming extent. Nevertheless, standards on site remained high. Once again, the results were integrated into a volume giving the wider view, a collection entitled *Prehistory in Lowland Shropshire* (1991).

The team photograph shows Jenny Glazebrook, ?, Annette Roe, Lawrence Bowkett, Charles Parry, Andrew Brooker-Carey and Jay Carver, also depicted in one of the Castle Farm ditches (photograph Emma Carver).



[Click to enlarge](#)

Annette Roe writes about Castle Farm:

"This was an Iron Age hill fort and medieval moated site (Martin is photographed here contemplating the section of the moat) destined to be flooded by Severn Trent Water to create a balancing reservoir which would regulate water around the new town of Telford. I was one of the lucky four that year in 1980 to be part of Martin's 'Year Out' programme at Birmingham University. He even rang my parents to persuade them that a year out was not a year off! It most certainly was not, and under Martin's leadership we all wanted to work as hard as he did. This was my first big chance to supervise a comparatively large site which turned out to be a huge challenge archaeologically, a student training dig and the basis for my MA dissertation. As always there was a great sense of camaraderie and later, as Martin became busier with other projects, I realised how lucky I was to have been his apprentice on site and, in retrospect, how brave and generous he was in allowing me to take my own decisions."



[Click to enlarge](#)

Annette also contributes this passage relating to another Shropshire site, the Carmelite Friary at Ludlow:

"This wonderful site was not only interesting archaeologically but it was excavated using Manpower Services staff chosen from the unemployed of Birmingham. Although the staff were funded by the government, everything else had to be paid for through fund-raising. We organised open days, a public viewing platform, talks to every conceivable local society and a student training dig for the University of Birmingham. I had then (and still have) a natural reticence to speak in public so I looked to my great hero of lectures and public speaking and asked when it would get easier. The answer was never - you just understand better how nervous you're going to be!"

ANNETTE ROE

Reference (MOHC bibliography)

- 1980 (with A. Roe & M.A. Cooper). Excavation and survey at Castle Farm, Shropshire: an interim report. *West Midlands Archaeology* 23: 40-51.
- 1991 (ed.). *Prehistory in Lowland Shropshire* (Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society 67).
- 1991 (with A. Roe). Excavations at Castle Farm, Shifnal, 1980, in M.O.H. Carver (ed.) *Prehistory in Lowland Shropshire* (Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society 67).
- 1991. A Strategy for Lowland Shropshire, in *Prehistory in Lowland Shropshire* (Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society 67): 1-8.
- 1991 (with M.R. Hummler). Excavations at Rock Green, Ludlow, 1975, in *Prehistory in Lowland Shropshire* (Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society 67): 84-97).

[Back to top](#)

Warwickshire: Coleshill and Wasperton



In 1977-78 Coleshill on the outskirts of Birmingham became the focus of attention. There, the discovery of a Romano-British temple preceded the development of the site into light industrial and residential units. Consequently, Martin and students - Liz Hooper in particular - on the 'year out' training programme that later became one of the hallmarks of BUFAU (Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit, now Birmingham archaeology) undertook the uncovering of the temple and precinct. Coleshill also marked the beginning of formal University training excavations, a tradition carried out for over 25 years by Martin in collaboration with Madeleine Hummler.

[Click to enlarge](#)

Never short of initiative, Martin managed to persuade Massey Ferguson, based in Stoneleigh, to lend him a mechanical excavator, allow him to drive it to Coleshill and train him to use it, as shown in this picture (though Martin is barely visible in the cab). The project was subsequently passed on to North Warwickshire Borough Council and John Magilton who continued excavations. They were published in 2006, with rather scant recognition for the work done in the early days of the project. On Carver's side, warm gratitude is due to Roy and Faith Jerromes, first encountered at Coleshill, at the beginning of a long-term collaboration at Sutton Hoo and Tarbat.



[Click to enlarge](#)

Faith and Roy Jerromes write:

"In 1978 Roy was introduced to field archaeology at a Romano-British temple site in Coleshill, Warwickshire and met the archaeologist in charge Martin Carver then of Birmingham University. With Martin's enthusiasm and guidance plus help from the others on site Roy soon became totally 'hooked'. I was volunteered by Roy to do some 'pot washing' and met Martin, little knowing how much of an enjoyable and life-changing impact he was to have on our summers for years to come. Even though I did not visit the Coleshill site as much as Roy I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. One thing I became aware of, and which has never failed to amaze me since I have known him, is Martin's ability to bring a site alive to those with little or no knowledge of archaeology; he does this with enthusiasm and humour. Encouraging interest and a need to know and learn more.

Over the years at Sutton Hoo and later at Tarbat we saw many sides of his character: he is great at a party, has an immense vocabulary of songs (very useful for singing round a bonfire etc.), but we also remember watching him from our caravan widow 'striding forth' over the mist-covered burial mounds at Sutton Hoo in the very early morning to check the site before anyone else was up. He obviously worried about some of the differing points of view of those who also had some say in the sites (his teams were always supportive) and here his diplomatic skills came to the fore. He often started work very early in the morning and would return late after a pub run to his computer. His charm is legendary and he can be extremely kind. But enough! We would hate to make him sound boring and saint-like. He's not: just an extremely likeable gentleman and friend.

We looked forward to the 'dig' each year. I (Roy) for all that time spent doing something that I truly loved and I (Faith) to see and work with our summer family.

Our thanks to you Martin and also Maddy and your family. We wish you a happy, healthy, busy and enjoyable retirement."

FAITH AND ROY JERROMES

Reference: see Magilton, J. 2006. *A Romano-Celtic temple and settlement at Grimstock Hill, Coleshill, Warwickshire* (Transactions of the Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeological Society, 110). Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeological Society.

Wasperton

Extensive gravel extraction works on the Warwickshire Avon were the setting for large scale interventions in 1981 and later, initiated by Martin who brought the Birmingham 'year out' students and field school to the site. This multiperiod, prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon occupation and cemetery site was excavated as part of a large team effort, where Simon Buteux, Gill Crawford and many others at Warwickshire County Council and Museum participated. The cemetery is of particular importance for the Roman, post-Roman transition, and Anglo-Saxon periods. Its final publication went to press in 2008, a collaboration with Jonathan Scheschkewitz, Catherine Hills and others. Jonathan's thesis on Wasperton was the result of a successful collaboration between the Universities of Kiel and York, achieved with Professor Michael Müller-Wille's (whom Martin presented as an honorary graduand of the University of York) unstinting support.



[Click to enlarge](#)

Emma Carver contributed the photograph of Martin on the track at Wasperton and the team shot showing Sarah Bazalgette, Liz Hooper, Roy Hooper, Louise Dilworth (later Brooker-Carey), Malcolm Cooper and Martin.



[Click to enlarge](#)

Simon Buteux, who took over, with others, the reins at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU, now Birmingham Archaeology) was an undergraduate at Wasperton, writing his final year dissertation on aspects of the prehistoric site. He recalls:

Martin Carver and BUFAU

"Just one of many turning points in Martin's career, but the best thing that ever happened for archaeology at Birmingham University, was when Martin set up BUFAU.

The idea of setting up a field archaeology unit at Birmingham University grew out of discussions in the mid 1970s between the former West Midlands Rescue Archaeology Committee (WEMRAC) and the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at the University. So, in 1976,

Martin established Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU). Initially it had just one salaried member of staff: Martin was employed as a Research Fellow in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, sponsored by the Department of the Environment. The rest of the BUFAU staff in the early days was a handful of undergraduates who had elected to do an 'intercalated year of practical training' between their second and third years. I was one of last three undergraduates to do this 'year out' in 1980-81. We lived on our 'maintenance grants', for those old enough to remember such wonderful things. The 'training' consisted of learning 'on the job' with Martin, but it was the most useful and enjoyable year of my career.



[Click to enlarge](#)

The base for the Unit then was 'The Hut' in the garden of Selly Wick House, one of the University's off-campus properties (it was literally a hut - no toilets but plenty of bushes - and we managed to have some pretty riotous parties in it). The only vehicle the Unit had was a share in the use of the departmental Landrover (also shared with History and the cause of endless disputes) and an old Citroën 2CV belonging to Martin's Swiss partner, Madeleine.

The main remit of BUFAU was to carry out rescue excavations in the West Midlands, but from the outset Martin had bigger ideas and I spent much of my year out in a gravel quarry in Northern Italy [see Casalmoro]. As usual, the entire team and all the equipment were somehow squeezed into Mad's 2CV (most of the seats were removed and we sat on the equipment; it also doubled as a photographic tower).



[Click to enlarge](#)



[Click to enlarge](#)

Martin was larger than life, and it was incredibly stimulating but challenging to work for him. 'Normal working hours' and 'weekends' were concepts that were alien to Martin (the 'Carver Sunday morning lie-in' meant starting on site at 8.30 instead of 8.00). But at the end of a very long day Martin would bring out the whisky bottle and we didn't go to bed till we'd finished it, invariably in tears of laughter. Martin was viewed by his colleagues in Ancient History and Archaeology as a maverick (not entirely without justification), and possibly dangerous. You either loved him or hated him; I was in the former camp.

BUFAU soon grew and by the early 1980s funding for some big excavations came from the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), set up to tackle (or massage) the problem of unemployment. This transformed the Unit, which now had dozens of staff (here, from left to right, Mark Taylor, Jon Cane and Andrew Brooker-Carey with Martin at Stafford; nobody is posing). It included an illustration and display team, a manager and a secretary. The Unit moved from The Hut to somewhat grander premises on campus. Instead of the undergraduate 'year out' Martin now ran a postgraduate Diploma and MA in Practical Archaeology, but still very much based on the type of 'on-the-job' apprenticeship that had characterised the 'year out'.



[Click to enlarge](#)

Amongst the major excavations which Martin directed in the early 1980s were the Stafford Project and the Wasperton Project (everybody started calling excavations 'projects' at this time) which I was fortunate to be involved in. Unexpectedly Wasperton also turned up a spectacular Anglo-Saxon cemetery.



[Click to enlarge](#)

In 1982 BUFAU became involved in its first really prestigious project: Martin was appointed to direct the Sutton Hoo Research Project. Birmingham couldn't hold him now, and in 1986 Martin succeeded Philip Rahtz to the chair of archaeology at York, taking the Sutton Hoo project with him. Martin's departure marked the end of an era for BUFAU (he is shown in this photograph receiving his leaving present at a party held in the University's botanic gardens; did he ever use those golf clubs?). Martin had devoted ten years of his life to it. His legacy, however, is one of the most innovative and thriving university-based archaeology units in Britain, now Birmingham Archaeology."

SIMON BUTEUX

Reference (MOHC bibliography)

- In press 2008 (with Jonathan Scheschkewitz & Catherine Hills). *Wasperton: a Roman, British and Anglo-Saxon community in central England*. Woodbridge: Boydell.

[Back to top](#)

Italy: Manerba and Castelseprio

Martin's introduction to Italy is owed in the first place to Lawrence Barfield, eminent prehistorian of Italy, who was conducting an excavation at the Chalcolithic site of the Sasso di Manerba on the shores of Lake Garda in the late 70s. This in turn led to an excavation, by Martin and a team from the Università Cattolica di Milano and Birmingham University at the church of the Pieve di Manerba. Emma Carver, now Head of Interpretation at English Heritage, was part of the party and contributes this photograph of Martin giving a site tour at the Pieve. She writes:



[Click to enlarge](#)

"Martin's site tours have always been an important part of any excavation whether you be a tourist, passer by, seasoned digger or a member of his family. He has that rare gift of making the past seem accessible and, perhaps most crucially, relevant to people's lives - an interpreter through and through. A remark that has always stayed with me, probably made as a retort to my not wanting to do my history homework: 'How can the past be boring - it's always about people' sums up his endless enthusiasm to unearth some of those people and to re-tell their stories in the present.

Dad - long may you remain my greatest source of inspiration. Happy retirement!"

EMMA

Annette Roe pursued a career in archaeology in Italy, before returning to contract archaeology in Britain. She writes this tribute, part inspired by work at Manerba:

A legacy and a career in song

"Martin has given a great deal to those of us who have worked with him over the years. Principal among these are his enthusiasm for archaeology and his belief that we should all be working to the same end, whether we work in the commercial, curatorial or academic sector. He has also provided us with a set of tools and principles to work with. His hierarchical recording system and his stratification diagram are the best I have ever worked with. This system, developed and in the late 1970s and continually updated and adapted, made recording logical, allowing you to organise your data and your thoughts and to 'see' your site when writing up. I introduced this system wherever I could and even participated in a lesson at the Università Cattolica in Milan where I presented Martin's stratification diagram in a duel against my colleague, Brunella Bruno, who was teaching the Harris matrix. Needless to say the students preferred Martin's method.

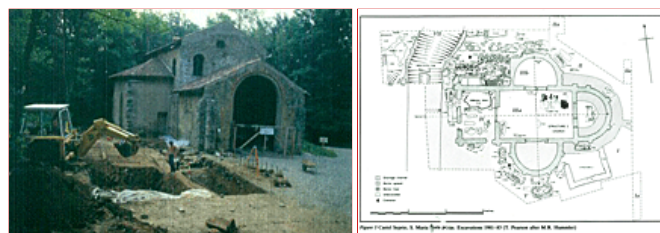


Click to enlarge

In all the years I have worked with Martin, for every site I have a memory in song. From Castle Farm when we all sang 'and so this is Shifnal and what have we done' to the tune of John Lennon's Christmas song, to Pieve Manerba [depicted here] when the Italian diggers wrote a song especially for him 'con badile, cazzuola e carriola, quando Martin ci invita d'agir...' Martin has always introduced music and song to our evenings and work time. Apart from his hugely eclectic taste for different types of music and his flute playing for relaxation, he has always been interested in 'collecting' songs from around the world. He and Madeleine would sing French songs to us, he would sing songs in Russian, Italian folk songs and anthems, and a variety of songs learnt and practiced over the years that we would all sing and enjoy around camp fires on many an occasion on different sites. As his sites attracted students and volunteers from all over the world, the evenings of song brought down barriers between those who spoke different languages and created bonds between them which may not otherwise have been possible."

ANNETTE ROE

At Manerba Martin met Gian-Pietro Brogiolo, now Professor of medieval archaeology at the University of Padova, and a fruitful partnership developed, leading to the excavations of two early medieval ecclesiastic sites: the Pieve di Manerba on Lake Garda and Santa Maria foris portas at Castelseprio in the province of Varese. The latter proved to be Carolingian rather than earlier, inscribed into the late/sub Roman castrum and Borgo of Castelseprio. Martin's love of Italy and Italians, and his influence over the course field archaeology took in the 1980s and subsequently, has meant that he is a frequent and welcome visitor there.



Click to enlarge

Gian-Pietro Brogiolo writes:

"Ho conosciuto Martin Carver nell'agosto del 1977. Allora responsabile della BUFAU (l'archaeological Unit dell'università di Birmingham) era venuto al riparo Valtenesi, sul lago di Garda, dove dal 1974, su mio invito, Lawrence Barfield conduceva ricerche in un importante sito con più fasi di occupazione dal mesolitico all'altomedioevo. Erano gli anni nei quali, dopo l'influenza delle idee neopositiviste/neomarxiste e delle Annales, si stavano impostando anche in Italia i metodi stratigrafici e ci si confrontava con le posizioni della New Archaeology. Ma erano anche gli anni in cui si stava affermando l'Archeologia medievale, nella quale militavamo entrambi. Non esitai perciò a coinvolgerlo nello scavo di Pieve di Manerba con un progetto che si poté realizzare nel 1979.

Di Martin mi colpivano la grande intelligenza e la straordinaria capacità di comunicazione che facevano di lui un grande archeologo abile nel far apprendere ad altri i suoi metodi innovativi basati su valutazione preventiva, strategia in rapporto a risorse e obiettivi, interpretazione contestuale allo scavo. E mi affascinavano le sue doti amichevoli che si manifestavano nelle lunghe serate passate a cena da Anna e Aldo che ospitavano nella loro bella casa manerbese l'intero gruppo degli archeologi. La collaborazione si sviluppò ulteriormente, tra 1980 e 1985, quando, divenuto ispettore della Soprintendenza archeologica, potei invitare lui e i suoi allievi a scavare a Santa Maria foris portas di Castelseprio e in altri siti di rescue archaeology. Un quinquennio durante il quale il suo apporto all'intera archeologia medievale italiana fu rilevante; basti considerare la grande risonanza che ebbe il suo intervento al convegno di Pavia del 1981. Martin proponeva allora un modello teorico e metodologico antitetico rispetto a quello del Department of Urban Archaeology di Londra e ai principi della stratigrafia di Harris che Andrea Carandini aveva diffuso in Italia con lo scavo di Settefinestre. Un modello, quello di Carver, in grado di governare, dandole un senso sociale e scientifico insieme, l'archeologia urbana che si stava allora diffondendo nei grandi scavi di Brescia, Verona e Milano. Scavi nei quali i differenti metodi poterono appresi per confrontarsi poi in una mostra sull'archeologia urbana in Lombardia, organizzata nel 1984 alla quale contribuì anche lui.

In quegli anni di grande fermento e di fiducia in una funzione sociale e politica della rescue archaeology, Martin costituiva per me un punto di riferimento importante e un appuntamento atteso era il suo arrivo in Italia per la campagna estiva di scavo con l'auto piena di nuovi libri e di fotocopie degli articoli più recenti e significativi. Così come le novità che si potevano apprendere direttamente dalla sua voce o dalle lezioni che gli chiesi di impartire agli studenti italiani: memorabili quelle che tenne nel 1980 alla scuola per archeologi di Botticino con il suo puzzle stratigrafico tridimensionale sul quale gli allievi si familiarizzavano con la stratigrafia.

Purtroppo quella breve stagione propositiva finì nel 1985 quando lasciai la Soprintendenza per iniziare la libera professione. E per vedere Carver fu necessario andare alle Summer Schools di Siena, alle quali lo invitò Riccardo Francovich. Un revival di quegli anni fu peraltro nel 2003 la pubblicazione in una mia collana di un suo libro sulla rescue archaeology (Archaeological value and evaluation), nel quale egli riprendeva, rivisitandoli e sistematizzandoli, alcuni dei temi dai quali era partita la sua seconda vita di archeologo alla fine degli anni '70. Ora che sei giunto, con la pensione, alla terza fase della tua vita, mi aspetto da te nuove idee e nuove proposte per un'Archeologia medievale che dopo l'ubriacatura postprocessualista, richiede con urgenza un ripensamento e una rifondazione."

GIAN PIETRO BROGIOLO

References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1982 (with S. Massa & G.-P. Brogiolo). Sequenza insediativa romana e altomedievale alla Pieve di Manerba (BS). *Archeologia Medievale* 9: 237-98.
- 1983 (with G.-P. Brogiolo). Castelseprio (VA) S. Maria foris portas: 4a campagna di scavo. *Soprintendenza Archeologica della Lombardia Notiziario* 1983: 103-5.
- 1984. Santa Maria foris portas e la città abbandonata di Castelseprio: nuove indagini e prospetti, in *Atti del secondo convegno archeologico regionale*, 13-15 Aprile 1984, Como - Villa Olmo: 563-75. Como: Società Archeologica Comense & Regione Lombardia.
- 1987. S. Maria foris portas at Castel Seprio: a famous church in a new context. *World Archaeology* 18.3: 312-29.

Italy: Casalmoro and Bagnolo San Vito

There were also forays into the pre- and protohistory of the Po plain near Mantova in the early 1980s, carried out together with Madeleine Hummler. Both excavations

were undertaken under the auspices of the Soprintendenza, at the request of Raffaele de Marinis (now Professor of Archaeology at the University of Milan). Casalmoro proved to be a Bronze Age occupation site (much mangled by a gravel quarry and lake, a favourite spot for fly tipping).



Click to enlarge

The site of the Forcello at Bagnolo San Vito, on the other hand, is a site of the 5th century BC, of major importance for the Etruscan occupation of the Po plain. After the initial evaluation by Hummler and Carver, Raffaele de Marinis has continued the investigations and research on site. The Forcello is now open to the public, with a visitor centre, and de Marinis has published widely on the significance of the site.



Click to enlarge

See the Forcello's website at: <http://www.parcoarcheologicoforcello.it/>

Another life-long friend first turned up at Bagnolo, Agostino Favaro, now director of the Società Padana di Archeologia, an archaeological unit in Mantova. He writes:

"Ricordo bene, uno di quegli incontri che ti cambiano la vita, un assolato pomeriggio estivo del 1982 nella Pianura Padana, a pochi km da Mantova, un articolo di giornale che parla di archeologia, del Forcello e di un gruppo di inglesi dell'Università di Birmingham. "È possibile partecipare? Dare una mano?" Quel "sì, vieni domani mattina alle 8" mi ha imbarcato in un'avventura che dura tutt'oggi, ma soprattutto mi ha permesso di fare un pezzo di strada con Martin Carver, uno che, se entri nel suo raggio di azione, ti cambia la vita."

AGOSTINO FAVARO

[Back to top](#)

Achir

In 1992 the last digging season took place at Sutton Hoo, and Martin was free, after 10 years to start looking for a new field project elsewhere. His major project eventually became Tarbat, but not before two further ventures outside Britain, Achir in Algeria, and St-Antonin-sur-Bayon in southern France. Both are owed to another colleague, Philippe Leveau, an influential figure in Mediterranean landscape archaeology.



Click to enlarge

Achir, located on the hauts plateaux south of the Atlas chain (winter can be rough, as shown here), actually consists of 4 sites: Achir town, its 'palace' site, the probably contemporary - 9th to 15th century - enclosed settlement at Benia (shown in this summer photograph) and the stronghold at Menzah Bent es-Soltane, perhaps an earlier Berber site.

The work carried out at Achir by the Algerian, British and French team showed enormous promise but was sadly curtailed by the worsening political situation in Algeria, with Martin being declared *persona non grata*.

Justin Garner-Lahire, who had worked at Sutton Hoo and was, together with Andy Copp and Annette Roe, setting up Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS) took part in the Achir adventure. He writes:

"In 1992, shortly after the completion of fieldwork at Sutton Hoo, I was delighted when Martin invited me to join him, along with Andy Copp, on a reconnaissance project in Algeria. The group of sites Martin wanted to investigate were situated in a remote area between the Sahara and the Atlas Mountains. The mission was to assess this group, map two large settlement sites, Achir and Benia, and undertake a sample excavation of the Achir defenses with young officers of the Agence Nationale d'Archéologie. Martin's aim was to initiate a research and presentation project involving these early Islamic sites and their environs, in partnership with the Algerian Ministry of Culture."



Click to enlarge

Although the scenery was beautiful, and the sites breathtaking, the climate, both political and environmental, presented us with some serious problems. Due to the extreme temperatures, we worked on site during the early morning and late afternoons, and rested or processed survey data in the campsite during the hottest part of the day. Even so, within a few days our electronic equipment began to fail in the heat. The distance meter on our total station was the first to go, leaving Andy and I with a manual theodolite and a temperamental electronic one with which to survey two

very large settlement sites. Although in the early 1990s we had yet to become completely reliant on electronic survey instruments, we knew that we didn't have enough time to undertake such a large survey manually. To my amazement, Martin simply wrote a program for his Psion hand-held computer which quickly converted theodolite tacheometry readings into an angle and distance for rapid plotting. The survey continued.... The next malfunction was more serious. Andy (a.k.a. Android or RoboCopp for his relentless approach to fieldwork), developed a very unpleasant problem. This was most evident on the campsite where Andy would spend most of his time occupying the small, breeze-block and corrugated iron toilet which became known as the thunderbox. However, true to his reputation, the survey was completed.

Although the results of this collaborative investigation were excellent, and the enormous potential of Martin's proposed project was clear, the rising political tension in Algeria was also evident. This really became obvious to me when I spent a day being driven around Algeria by one of Martin's co-directors, Djemal Souidi. While the heavily armed police and military presence was fairly overbearing, the sight of hundreds of angry, bearded gentlemen carrying a coffin draped in an Islamic flag, occupying the entire dual-carriageway in front of us was unsettling to say the least. The project had to be abandoned as Algeria descended into a long period of civil unrest. Martin was even accused of being a spy for the British military in order to discredit the project and his Algerian colleagues. I remember being particularly struck by Martin's sadness at these developments, not because the project had failed, but because he felt he had let friends down.

JUSTIN GARNER-LAHIRE

References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1996 (with Djemal Souidi). Archaeological reconnaissance and evaluation in the Achir basin (Algeria). *Archéologie islamique* 6: 7-44.
- 1996. Transitions to Islam, in N. Christie & S. Loseby (ed.) *Towns in Transition: 184-212*. Leicester: Leicester University Press.

St Antonin-sur Bayon



Click to enlarge

In 1989 a major forest fire destroyed large parts of the area of the Montagne Sainte Victoire, well known from Paul Cézanne's paintings. Though catastrophic, the fire revealed many archaeological remains hitherto hidden by the vegetation. In 1992-95 the chance came to evaluate a hilltop settlement of the last century BC, occupied by local Iron Age populations in contact with the newly Romanised settlement at Aquae Sextiae (Aix-en-Provence). This evaluation formed part of a larger research programme in the region, successfully carried out by Florence Mocci from the Centre Camille Jullian at the University of Aix-en-Provence and Kevin Walsh, who have proved excellent friends. Kevin is a colleague at the Department of Archaeology at York, where he has developed his research in southern France, in particular the southern French Alps (see <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/med/html/web/> and <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/med/html/g60s/g601.htm>)

Though the images here were taken in very hot weather, torrential rains were also a serious factor. The team's minibus and campsite only just made it through.



Click to enlarge

For references and summary see Florence Mocci & Nuria Nin (ed.). 2006. *Carte archéologique de la Gaule: Aix-en-Provence, Pays d'Aix, Val de Durance* 13/4: 659-64. Paris: Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.

It was during the fieldwork at St-Antonin-sur Bayon that three of Martin's most dedicated young collaborators set up an archaeological unit, Field Archaeology Specialists or FAS. Integrated within the Department of Archaeology at York for 12 years, it now operates independently, but the link with research remains strong. The FAS team write:

"FAS was established in 1993 by Justin, Annette, Andy and Martin, the founding directors. The decision to create FAS was made one evening around the dining table in a dig house in Ventabren near Aix en Provence. Of course, by the next morning Martin had thought of a company name, designed a logo, written the mission statement, and drafted the publicity material. Fifteen years later, Martin is still the Company Chairman and Research Director, and has helped to guide FAS through difficult, challenging times, and continues to provide support and inspiration to the present directors, Justin, Cecily and Jonathan. Ideologically, FAS' operation in the field continues to employ and develop Martin's investigation and recording strategy, including the use of recovery levels and hierarchical on-site recording and interpretation. Martin's determination to develop the discipline, and his exacting fieldwork and research standards, continue to set the benchmark for FAS' endeavours. For FAS, Martin's retirement from the Department of Archaeology means we can look forward to spending more time working with him on numerous new research projects.

*Often forgotten among Martin's many activities, FAS has been building a lively research portfolio often with his guiding hand. After twelve years FAS and the Department of Archaeology parted company, but Martin's continuing directorship meant research ties were not broken. Among the projects that the changing team at FAS has been engaged in are Tarbat, the first excavated Pictish monastery; the Minster Library project (excavation of an area of Roman barracks and of the medieval Archbishop's Palace); Castle Sinclair Gimigoe, (excavation of a late medieval to Renaissance castle); and Eilean Donan Castle (excavation and presentation of a medieval castle). Martin acts as Editor-in-Chief for FAS' academic output such as the online monograph for excavations in Fishergate, York, and recent publication in *Medieval Archaeology*. Ongoing collaborative projects include the publication of the late Roman to Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wasperton (due February 2009) for which FAS provided post-excavation support, and an online dissemination project with ADS in support of the forthcoming monograph for the excavations of Anglo-Saxon Stafford.*

On a practical level FAS has employed more than 50 York alumni over the last fifteen years, many of whom continue their careers in archaeology: Tony Austin; James Brennan; Louise Brennan; Becky Cannell; Ian Carlisle; Jonathan Clark; Mike Collins; Pat Daniel; William Davis; John English; David Fell; Margrethe Felter; Chris Fern; Justin Garner-Lahire; Bjarne Gaut; Jules Giecco; Peter Glew; Holly Gourley; Nicky Green; Lars Gustavsen; Abigail Harrap; Candy Hatherley; Stewart Herks; Dan Hull; Elizabeth Humble; Sandra Jack; Richard Jackson; Amy Jones; Jon Kenny; Rebecca Lane; Kate Lister; Ian Mellor; Ben Middleton; Adam Nash; Rochelle Ramey; David Rawson; Ben Reeves; Steve Rowland; Michael Shapland; Lisa Smith; Gigi Signorelli; Cecily Spall; Stephen Timms; Alastair Trevarthen; Nicola Toop; David Watts; Paul White. Many more York students worked with the FAS team on numerous research projects including Sutton Hoo, Tarbat, York Minster Library, Cottam, Hilton of Cadboll, and Clonmacnoise."

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS

[Back to top](#)

Thinking about field archaeology (MOHC bibliography)

This section contains bibliographical references to publications on field archaeology not already mentioned in the British, Algerian and Italian site-specific references.

- 1975. Review of P.A. Rahtz (ed.) *Rescue archaeology in Urban Studies*.
- 1976. The independent regional committee in principle and practice. *Rescue News* 12: 9.
- 1978. Which? Some criteria for site selectors. *Rescue News* 15: 9-10.
- 1979. Notes on some general principles for the analysis of excavated data. *Science and Archaeology* 21: 3-14.
- 1981 (ed.). *West Midlands Archaeology* 24.
- 1982 (ed.). *West Midlands Archaeology* 25.
- 1983 (ed.). *West Midlands Archaeology* 26.
- 1984. Modernising archaeology. *The Field Archaeologist* 1: 5.
- 1984. Bibliografia della metodologia archeologica. *Enciclopedia Europea Garzanti*.
- 1984. Bibliografia dell'archeologia medievale in Europa. *Enciclopedia Europea Garzanti*.
- 1985. Diggers and digging in the 21st century. *The Field Archaeologist* 3: 26-8.
- 1985. Reviews of M.L. Faulk (ed.) *Studies in late Saxon Settlement* and B. Jones *Past Imperfect: the story of Rescue archaeology in The Local Historian* 16.7: 432-3.
- 1985. Reviews of R.A. Croft & D.C. Maynard *A guide to the medieval landscape of Milton Keynes* and S.P.Q. Rahtz & T. Rowley *Middleton Stoney: excavations and survey in a north Oxfordshire parish* in *The Local Historian* 16.8: 493-4.
- 1986. Statement submitted by M.O.H. Carver to IFA Council on 19th February 1986. Implications for members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists of recent events connected with the World Archaeological Congress, and of the actions taken by Council. *The Field Archaeologist* 5: 59-61.
- 1988. In the steps of a master: Philip Barker and the future of archaeological excavation, in A. Burl (ed.) *From Roman town to Norman castle, essays in honour of Philip Barker*: 11-29. Birmingham: University of Birmingham Department of Extra-Mural Studies.
- 1988. Report of the Contract Archaeology Study Group. *The Field Archaeologist* 8: 115-17.
- 1989. Digging for ideas. *Antiquity* 63: 666-74.
- 1990. Digging for data: archaeological approaches to data definition, acquisition and analysis, in R. Francovich & D. Manacorda (ed.) *Lo scavo archeologico: dalla diagnosi all'edizione*: 45-120. Firenze: All'Insegna del Giglio.
- 1992 (with J.M. Tealby, J.E. Szymanski, G. Tsokas & J. Richards). An evaluation of ground probing radar in archaeology on urban and rural sites throughout Europe. Abstracts of the International Conference on Archaeometry, Los Angeles, April 1992.
- 1992. The innocent archaeologist in court or a bad year at Earl Bottom. *The Archaeologist* 17: 329-32.
- 1994. Putting research back in the driving seat. *British Archaeological News* 13: 9.
- 1994. Digging for data, in *Interbenzio Arkeologia* (Jornadas Internacionales Arqueologia de Intervencion, Basque Government Conference, Donostia).
- 1995. Digging for data: principles and procedures for evaluation, excavation and post-excavation in towns, in W. Hensel, S. Tabaczynski and P. Urbanczyk (ed.) *Theory and practice of archaeological research 2: acquisition of field data at multi-strata sites*: 255-302. Warsaw: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences.
- 1996. On archaeological value. *Antiquity* 70: 45-56.
- 1998: On archaeological value, in S. Tabaczynski (ed.) *Theory and practice of archaeological research 3: dialogue with the data. The archaeology of complex societies and its context in the '90s*: 411-30. Warsaw: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences.
- 1999. Field archaeology, in G. Barker (ed.) *Companion Encyclopaedia of Archaeology, Volume 1*: 128-81. London & New York: Routledge.
- 2001. The future of field archaeology, in Z. Kobylinski (ed.) *Quo vadis archaeologia? Whither European archaeology in the 21st century*: 118-132. Warsaw: European Science Foundation.
- 2003. *Archaeological value and evaluation* (Manuali per l'archeologia 2). Mantova: Società Archeologica Padana.
- 2004. Key ideas in excavation, in P. Bahn & C. Renfrew (ed.) *Archaeology: the key concepts*: 106-10. London & New York: Routledge.
- 2006. Thinking allowed: some rescue reminiscences. *Rescue News* 100: 6-8.
- In press 2008. Sutton Hoo - an archaeography, in J. Schofield (ed.) *Great excavations: the shaping of the archaeological profession*.
- In press 2008. Adding value to what we do. *Current Archaeology*.
- In press 2009. *Archaeological investigation*. Routledge.

[Back to top](#)

Excavating Sutton Hoo

Martin's apprenticeship in urban archaeology and in European field archaeology led to a prestigious, and challenging, task: to place Sutton Hoo in context, a research project initiated by the Society of Antiquaries of London and the British Museum in partnership with the BBC and the National Maritime Museum, formed into a Research Committee and a Research Trust (some members shown here at King's Manor in York on completion of the draft research report in 1997).

The Research Committee's approach to the project was to turn the application process into an open competition, whose core was the formulation of a research design. Martin felt extremely honoured to have his ideas about evaluation and implementation endorsed, and subsequently supported through thick and thin by the Committee and Trust. Started from Birmingham in 1983, the project moved to York in 1986, with the Department's full support for post-excavation until 1997 and publication of the research report in 2005 with deposition of the archive with ADS at York.



Click to enlarge

Leslie Webster (first on the left in the group photograph above) was a member of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust right from the start. She writes:

"The Society of Antiquaries Council Room is a deep mahogany, gloomy venue that can be rather lowering to the spirits on a dark day, and so it certainly felt back in 1982 when members of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust met to interview candidates to lead the much-debated and, at that time, somewhat controversial Sutton Hoo Project. Our task was to find a multi-faceted paragon to direct the project - a brilliant field archaeologist who would combine vision, energy and determination with the leadership skills of a tank commander, an expert in early medieval cultural history, a fund-raising genius with a shameless talent for publicity, and an all-round intellectual who could at the drop of a hat quote Pushkin in the original or burst into a snatch of Schubert. The spirits sank dismally at the scale of the challenge. But when Martin swung through the doors exuding that irrepressible mixture of confidence, authority and exuberance, the room seemed to brighten instantly - I rarely remember enjoying the process of interview so much, and well before its end we knew we had our man.

His skills were to be tested many times in the decade that followed, in keeping not just the watchful Trust but the larger Sutton Hoo Research Committee happy, and in satisfying those critics of the Project who were waiting to pounce. Martin's research design was a clever, sensitive and supple approach to the site, and in those early years he soon won over doubters, myself included. When he wasn't excavating, he threw himself energetically into TV programmes, conferences and publications, all helping to engage the scholarly and popular communities and to spread the word. Fund-raising, however, remained a recurrent concern as costs rose, and institutional budgets shrank; and as the excavation rolled onwards to the final pyrotechnics of the Mound 17 horse-burial, the need to secure the site in perpetuity and to find an appropriate way of presenting it to the public occupied a considerable amount of his energies. These are stories told elsewhere; but the monument as it is now, safely and imaginatively preserved in the hands of the National Trust, together with its excellent Visitor Centre, is a tremendous tribute to Martin's vision and hard work.

His subsequent projects - especially the Tarbat excavations, and rethinking Antiquity - have been equally stary, a testament to a brilliantly enquiring mind. But for me, Martin will always be the king of Sutton Hoo, striding across the mounds, his arms waving in unquenchable enthusiasm as he expounded his latest theories, generous in the sharing of ideas as in his formidable hospitality. But this is no obituary! - long may Martin keep on working, striding, waving and generating fun and ideas for years to come."

LESLIE WEBSTER



Click to enlarge

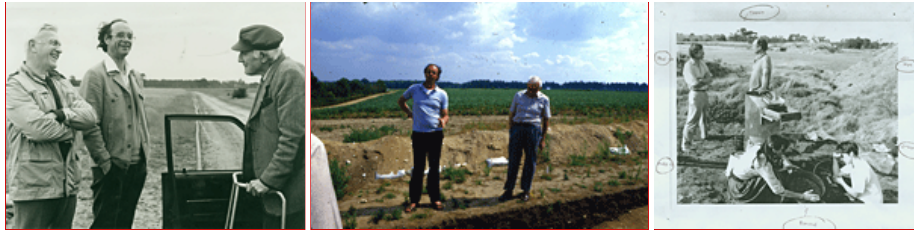
The Sutton Hoo research project was of course a large piece of fieldwork, and memories of 10 years' digging are plentiful, some recalled here. But it also coalesced Martin's thinking on ideology and allegiance (see bibliography below). Rosemary Cramp pays this generous tribute:

"What has always impressed me about Martin, and continues to impress me, is that to any project or problem that engages him he brings an entirely new perspective. Moreover he has the gift of sharing the developments in his thinking as they proceed to new conclusions. This was particularly effective in his site analysis of Sutton Hoo: by the time he had finished his remarkable excavation, he had introduced the archaeological world to new means of site analysis, exposing his project at each stage to comment and debate, and finally providing the famous burial mounds with a long term context such as could not have been previously imagined.

His work at Tarbat / Portmahomack was conducted in the same way and has provided new insights into the rise and fall of an ecclesiastical community, as well as a sequence of activities which uniquely add to the sum of knowledge of these complex Early Medieval sites. I have learnt a great deal from his work, and hope I can continue to do so."

ROSEMARY CRAMP

The new Sutton Hoo project marked the passage from the 'old' archaeology to the 'new' in the early 1980s. Martin was fortunate to make the link between the two, encountering such prominent figure as Christopher Hawkes (who thanked him for talking so much), Charles Phillips and Norman Scarfe, or Rupert Bruce-Mitford, shown in these photographs (sadly there is no image of Christopher Hawkes on site). The encounter with the 'new' is perhaps best encapsulated by a visit by Ian Hodder and Christine Hastorf; the last picture invites a caption competition.



Click to enlarge

Jenny Glazebrook, administrator of the Sutton Hoo Project throughout and now Managing Editor of East Anglian Archaeology, captures life on site so well in this contribution. She writes:

"It was challenging, it was hard work but above all, fun. The strongest memories are of people: communal meals in the marquee, the all-important tea breaks [here in 1984, showing, from left to right, Jenny Glazebrook, Andy Copp, Cathy Royle, Niall Oakey, Martin (photo, Nigel Macbeth)] impromptu parties by the camp fire; our august director buzzing around Sutton Hoo on a battered Garelli moped two sizes too small [photographed here by Nigel Macbeth in 1986], the hole in the seat of his cavalry twill trousers patched with a charming floral fabric; children ... more children.



Click to enlarge

There was a constant stream of visitors, many of whom were taken on site tours [here photographed by Tuija Rankama in 1985] and these were delivered by Martin with the same infectious enthusiasm whether to an audience of fresh-faced volunteers, Society of Antiquaries fellows, the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, royalty, or two elderly ladies and their poodle.

Working with Martin involved vital instructions delivered as illegible handwritten notes, cigarette ash over the telephone, red wine rings on the desk, an ancient and uncomfortable-looking camp-bed in the corner of the office (for afternoon siestas, almost never achieved). Constant challenges set the pace - one always seemed to be running to keep up. Martin's most energetic days were characterised by new ideas, methodological approaches and plans, prompting a flurry of early morning activity and the (slightly grumpy) remark among site staff: he's probably written an article already, before breakfast!



Click to enlarge

Hard work yes, but great fun too. Martin and Madeleine's warm hospitality did much to strengthen team spirit, and won them many friends. This picture was taken during the end-of-dig party at Castle Farm - it could just as easily have been Stafford, or Sutton Hoo. Martin may have been entertaining us with his gutsy rendition of Hard-hearted Hannah (all seven verses), or leading the chorus of Only Archaeology (can reveal the truth). Someone who can do this after a long day pushing the frontiers of archaeological theory and practice deserves our utmost respect and admiration."

JENNY GLAZEBROOK



Click to enlarge

Amongst Jenny's numerous tasks was the organisation of the annual field school, which welcomed many York students. Some may have come reluctantly, but for some it marked a turning point. Justin Garner-Lahire writes:

"My arrival at Sutton Hoo in the summer of 1989 was not through choice, I had simply failed to apply in time for one of the 'less serious' York excavation projects which were more popular with York undergraduates. Being one of the Department's least academically motivated students, Martin struggled to hide his disappointment on my arrival on site. There followed a week of hard physical work ranging from spoilheap management, digging pipe trenches, building sieving platforms, and cutting turf. My abiding memory from my first week at Sutton Hoo was lying down, red-faced, sweaty and exhausted, outside the kitchen having missed tea-break in order to cut turf ahead of a machine, only to be told off by Von Copp the site supervisor for 'lying down on the job', and ordered back onto site. Having survived the first week, I was allowed on site. Although I had previously worked on a number of excavation projects, Sutton Hoo was a real eye-opener. From then on I was hooked on field archaeology, and have greatly benefited from Martin's support, guidance and enthusiasm ever since."

JUSTIN GARNER-LAHIRE

Many excavators have contributed to the Sutton Hoo story, amongst them Sally Foster, now of Historic Scotland and editor of Medieval Archaeology, seen here pulling a face at Martin during the excavation of the eastern execution cemetery in 1985-6.



Click to enlarge

Sally Foster writes to accompany this photograph of Martin striding across the site:

"Martin's achievements in terms of understanding and promoting (medieval) archaeology and his pioneering approaches to fieldwork speak eloquently for themselves. What it rather difficult to find a picture to encapsulate is his inspiring enthusiasm for the subject, and the encouragement and friendly (but purposeful) steer he so effortlessly gives others. He has the rare quality of always putting a spring back in your step."

SALLY FOSTER

The excavation of Mound 17 with its rich male burial and accompanying horse burial, ploughed out and thus having escaped robbing, was amongst the highlights of 1991. Annette Roe who excavated it recalls:



Click to enlarge



Click to enlarge

"Although living in Italy, I decided to take up the invitation to help out at Sutton Hoo and came back for the last three summer campaigns. In the final summer, Martin gave me the most amazing opportunity of my career when I excavated the intact grave of the prince under Mound 17. The recording system, adapted for the purpose with naturalistic colour planning and remote mapping which avoided damage to the grave, allowed us to see the grave in 3D tracing the form of organic objects and eventually to reconstruct the sequence of the furnishing of the grave. Martin worked closely with me throughout the summer, discussing the interpretation of shapes and soil stains as they emerged, and, as autumn approached, making conditions difficult and available daylight limited, he excavated the final array of the body and grave goods as I recorded from the edge of the grave cut. This was a great team effort with people helping to sieve and survey, Peter Berry building a scaffolding 'cradle' to prevent me having to stand in the grave, and everyone working early to open up the covers or late to help clear up for Nigel MacBeth to take photographs. It was a hard summer, but so enjoyable and a great chance to work with Martin and benefit from his knowledge, his ready ideas and his enthusiasm. This is how archaeology should be."

ANNETTE ROE

Digging at Sutton Hoo was a privilege. It was felt by all involved in the project, and promoted by Martin's ability to build up a team, for example in regular Friday afternoon site tours. For a while, Sutton Hoo was life, with children or Russian and Moldovan visitors, egos and all.



Click to enlarge



Sally Foster, who sent this photograph of Martin with Freddie in 1986, writes:

"This picture finds us on what I remember as the turkey farm, where the Sutton Hoo diggers camped out in converted barns in 1986. While I can't recollect the cause for celebration and party hats, it captures nicely Martin's capacity for hard work underpinned by fun for his real family, as well as seasonally adopted family of diggers. And for those of us who have worked with him over the years, or made an occasional pilgrimage to his excavations, the pleasure of watching Freddy et al growing up."

SALLY FOSTER

[Click to enlarge](#)

Work and family were indeed closely connected, and, at Sutton Hoo and elsewhere, Martin inspired his children. Gevi Carver writes:

*"Dad,
I think archaeology is the most interesting subject there is, and it's all because of you. Not that I was ever pushed to think that; I think it because you've shown me. And, yes, you've done that in a 'fatherly' way, but I bet there are a lot of people who feel the same. Undoubtedly some of them have been inspired by your academic work, but I have to admit I'd never read a word you'd published until last year...! I, along with countless diggers around the campfire at Sutton Hoo, local fishermen in the Castle Inn, Portmahomack, students in the corridor of King's Manor and many others, have become a Martin Carver convert to archaeology by talking to you. I don't know when it happened - in the pissing down rain as our tent was nearly blown off a cliff in Orkney, maybe, or when the family ex-departmental minibus got stuck in a snow drift in the French Alps - but at some point, listening and speaking to you, I got it. I understood that the whole of the human past was one big conversation, and by opening that up you could continue the conversation and speak not only to everybody in the world, but to everybody who has ever been in it. And that, for a Carver, was too good to be missed."*

GEVI CARVER

Amongst the many tasks incumbent on a research director was the promulgation of the project to everyone, in the academic forum, in public lectures, on site visits and on television (here some scenes from these ventures) and above all working to secure the long-term future of the Sutton Hoo site. This was resolved by the generous gift by Annie Tranmer of the Sutton Hoo estate to the National Trust and the Trust's building of the Sutton Hoo visitor centre, opened by Seamus Heaney in 2002.



[Click to enlarge](#)

Angus Wainwright, National Trust archaeologist responsible for Sutton Hoo, writes:



Click to enlarge

"This is Martin reluctantly wrapped not in an oversized bathmat but in a unique re-creation of a seventh-century looped-pile cloak from Sutton Hoo Mound 1, made for the National Trust's visitor centre there. Angus Wainwright, the Trust's archaeologist for the East of England, was one of those responsible for creating the exhibition. "Martin is both the supreme expert on Sutton Hoo and absolutely committed to interpreting archaeology to a non-specialist audience. But we also knew that, in creating the exhibition for the site, we were enjoying doing what he had always wanted to do. Despite this, he was incredibly generous with his time and ideas, not only briefing us on technical and academic matters but also anticipating the practical problems of communicating to a varied audience. Martin, thank you for your imagination, your pragmatism and your utter lack of vanity."

ANGUS WAINWRIGHT

Filming by the BBC, for BBC2's Chronicle programmes, produced by Ray Sutcliffe, led to adventures beyond the North Sea. The incident in Norway, where the BBC was filming the sailing trial of the full scale replica of the Oseberg ship the Edda has often been told in Martin's public lectures. Here it is retold in pictures:



Click to enlarge



Click to enlarge

And finally, Martin at Sutton Hoo in different guises:



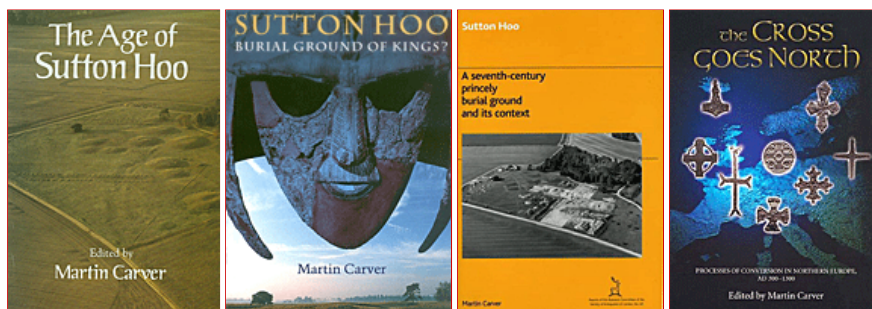
Click to enlarge

References to Sutton Hoo excavations (MOHC bibliography)

- 1983. The Sutton Hoo Research Project: research design, 3rd revision (1 April 1983). Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee 1: 1-17.
- 1983. Sutton Hoo: detailed research proposals. Rescue News 31 (Autumn 1983): 2-5.
- 1984 (ed.). Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee 2.
- 1985. Anglo-Saxon objectives at Sutton Hoo. Anglo-Saxon England 15: 139-52.
- 1985. Sutton Hoo. Current Archaeology 95: 358-60.
- 1985. Confronting the past through new technology. The Listener 29 August: 13-14.
- 1985. Sutton Hoo: management and intervention on acid sandy sites, in ICCROM Conference, Ghent: 27-44.
- 1985 (ed.). Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee 3.
- 1986. Sutton Hoo in context. Settimane di Studio del Centro Italiano di Studi sull' alto medioevo 32: 77-123. Spoleto.
- 1986 (ed.). Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee 4.
- 1986. The 'ploughman', the 'hanged man' and the cult of Woden. Saxon (Sutton Hoo Society journal).
- 1987. Graphic recording at Sutton Hoo: single instrument remote plotting - with no strings attached. The Field Archaeologist 7: 102-3.
- 1987 (with P. Bethell). Detection and enhancement of decayed inhumations at Sutton Hoo, in A. Boddington, A.N. Garland & R.C. Janaway (ed.) Death, decay and reconstruction: 10-21. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- 1988 (ed.). Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee 5.
- 1989. Kingship and material culture in Early Anglo-Saxon East Anglia, in S. Bassett (ed.) The origins of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: 141-58. Leicester: Leicester University Press.
- 1989. Anglo-Saxon discoveries at Sutton Hoo, 1987-1988. Old English Newsletter 22.2.
- 1989 (ed.). Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee 6.
- 1984-1989 (ed. & presented). TV documentaries on Sutton Hoo for BBC2 (50 min each): New Beginnings, The last of the Pagans and Sea Peoples.
- 1990. Pre-Viking traffic in the North Sea, in S. McGrail (ed.) Maritime Celts, Frisians and Saxons: papers presented to a conference at Oxford in November 1988 (CBA Research Report 71): 117-125. London: Council for British Archaeology.
- 1990 (ed.). Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee 7.
- 1992 (ed.). The Age of Sutton Hoo: the seventh century in north-western Europe. Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer (reprinted 1994).
- 1992. The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Sutton Hoo - an interim report, in M.O.H. Carver (ed.) The Age of Sutton Hoo: the seventh century in north-western Europe: 343-71.

- 1992. The future of Sutton Hoo, in C.B. Kendall & P.S. Wells (ed.) *Voyage to the other world: the legacy of Sutton Hoo: 183-200*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- 1992 (with A. Selkirk). Sutton Hoo: a drama in three acts. *Current Archaeology* 128: 324-30.
- 1993. Sutton Hoo: the graveyard of Anglo-Saxon pagan kingship. *Minerva* 4(4): 28-33.
- 1993 (ed.). *Bulletin of the Sutton Hoo Research Committee* 8.
- 1993 (ed.). *The Sutton Hoo Research Committee Bulletins 1983-1993* (omnibus edition). Woodbridge: Boydell.
- 1996? Sutton Hoo, in *Lexicon des Mittelalters*. Zürich.
- 1996? Sutton Hoo, in *Reader's Digest Family Encyclopaedia of World History*.
- 1997? Theatre of death, in *British Heritage*. Harrisburg (PA).
- 1997. Immemorial mounds. *National Trust Magazine*.
- 1998. Sutton Hoo: burial ground of kings? London: British Museum Press (reprinted 2000, 2005) (1999 Runner up BAA Book of the Year).
- 1998. On - an off - the Edda, in O. Olsen, J.S. Madsen & Fi. Riek (ed.) *Shipshape: essays for Ole Crumlin-Pedersen on the occasion of his 60th anniversary*, February 24th 1995. Roskilde: Vikingeskibshallen.
- 1999. Cemetery and society at Sutton Hoo; five awkward questions and four contradictory answers, in C.E. Karkov, K. Wickham-Crawley & B.K Young (ed.) *Spaces of the living and the dead: an archaeological dialogue* (*American Early Medieval Studies* 3): 1-14. Oxford: Oxbow.
- 1999. Exploring, explaining, imagining: Anglo-Saxon archaeology 1998, in C.E. Karkov (ed.) *The archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England: basic readings: 25-52*. London & New York: Routledge/Garland.
- 1999: 'Sutton Hoo' and 'Princely burials' for M. Lapidge, J. Blair, S. Keynes & D. Scragg (ed.) *Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Anglo-Saxon England: 376-8; 432-6*.
- 2005. Sutton Hoo: a seventh-century princely burial ground and its context (Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London 69). London: British Museum Press (2006 Runner-up, BAA Scholarly Book of the Year).
- 2005 (with A. Copp, M. Hummler & C. Royle), prepared by Kieron Niven and the support of J.D. Richards. *Sutton Hoo field reports*. York: Project ARchive deposited with ADS.
(http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/projArch/suttonhoo_var_2004)

[Back to top](#)



[Click to enlarge](#)

Thinking about ideology and allegiance (MOHC bibliography)

This section contains bibliographical references to publications on ideology and allegiance not already mentioned in the site-specific references to Sutton Hoo.

- 1992. Ideology and allegiance in East Anglia, in R. Farrell & C. Neuman de Vegvar (ed.) *Sutton Hoo: fifty years after* (*American Early Medieval Studies* 2): 173-82. Oxford (Ohio): Miami University.
- 1993 (ed.). *In Search of cult: archaeological investigations in honour of P.A. Rahtz*. Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer.
- 1995. Boat burial in Britain: ancient custom or political signal?, in O. Crumlin-Pedersen & B. Munch (ed.) *The ship as symbol in prehistoric and medieval Scandinavia: 111-24*. Copenhagen: National Museum of Denmark.
- 1998. Conversion and politics on the eastern seaboard of Britain: some archaeological indicators, in B. Crawford (ed.) *Conversion and Christianity in the North Sea world: 11-40*. St Andrews: University of St Andrews.
- 1998. Ueberlegungen zur Bedeutung angel-sächsischer Grabhügel, in A. Wesse (ed.) *Studien zur Archäologie des Ostseeraumes von der Eisenzeit bis zum Mittelalter: Festschrift für Michael Müller-Wille: 259-268*. Neumünster.
- 1999. Preface to H. Geake & J. Kenney (ed.) *Early Deira: archaeological studies of the East Riding in the fourth to ninth centuries AD: ix-xi*. Oxford: Oxbow.
- 2000. Burial as poetry: the context of treasure in Anglo-Saxon graves, in E.M. Tyler (ed.) *Treasure in the Medieval West: 25-48*. York & Woodbridge: York Medieval Press/ Boydell.
- 2001. Why that, why there, why then? The politics of early medieval monumentality, in A. MacGregor & H. Hamerow (ed.) *Image and power in early medieval British archaeology: essays in honour of Rosemary Cramp: 1-22*. Oxford: Oxbow.
- 2001. Review of Simon Taylor (ed.) *Kings, Clerics and Chronicles in Scotland, 500-1297: essays in honour of Marjorie Olgivie Anderson on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday*, in *English Historical Review* 468: 921-2.
- 2002. Marriages of true minds: archaeology with texts, in B. Cunliffe, W. Davies & C. Renfrew (ed.) *Archaeology: the widening debate: 465-96*. British Academy (2004: *Tvìer hjartans vinir. Fornleifafraeði og textar Ritið 2: 215-57* translation of above into Icelandic).
- 2002. Reflections on the meaning of Anglo-Saxon barrows, in S. Lucy & A. Reynolds (ed.) *Burial in Early Medieval England and Wales* (*Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph* 17): 132-43. London: Society for Medieval Archaeology.
- 2002. Politik und Kultur im Britannien des 10. Jahrhunderts, in J. Henning (ed.) *Europa im 10. Jahrhundert: Archäologie einer Aufbruchzeit: 209-226*. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern.
- 2003 (ed.). *The Cross goes North: processes of Christian conversion in northern Europe, AD 300-1300*. York & Woodbridge: York Medieval Press/Boydell (2006 paperback edition).
- 2003. Introduction: northern Europeans negotiate their future, in M.O.H. Carver (ed.) *The Cross goes North: processes of Christian conversion in northern Europe, AD 300-1300: 3-13*. York & Woodbridge: York Medieval Press/Boydell.
- 2003. Britain, ideologies and the Frisian Sea, in W. Groenman-van Waateringe, B. van Beek & W. Metz (ed.) *Het Instituut: vijftig jaar: 68-79*. Amsterdam: Amsterdams Archeologisch Centrum Instituut voor Prae-en Protohistorie.
- 2008. Archaeology, monasticism and Romanitas in northern Britain (review article). *Antiquity* 82: 220-22.
- In press 2008. Politics and territories in Anglo-Saxon England, in H. Hamerow & D. Hinton (ed.) *Anglo-Saxon Handbook*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming. On reading Anglo-Saxon graves (J.M. Kemble lecture for 2008). To be published by Trinity College Dublin. Forthcoming. *Ancestral airs*, in *The Aldborough Anthology*.
- Forthcoming. Contributions to *The Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, *Marymount Encyclopaedia*.
- In prep. *Early Medieval Britain*. Blackwells

[Back to top](#)

Portmahomack excavations



Click to enlarge

Tarbat is a peninsula jutting out into the North Sea -there are many Tarbat or Tarbet place names, meaning portage, mostly on the west coast of Scotland - between the Cromarty and Dornoch firths in Easter Ross, north-east Scotland, about half way between Inverness and Wick. In many ways Tarbat, and in particular the excavations at Portmahomack, proved to be the natural successor to Sutton Hoo, focusing Martin's thinking on the formation of a Pictish kingdom, the role of Christian conversion, monasticism and the place of iconography, in the form of the magnificent Pictish sculpture, found in abundance on Tarbat, at Nigg, Shandwick, Hilton of Cadboll and Portmahomack itself. But it was not a given at the outset, as, unlike Sutton Hoo, Tarbat was a foray into an almost unknown site which flourished between the 6th and 10th centuries AD.

The range of investigations refined at Sutton Hoo was deployed between 1994 and 2007 at Tarbat, resulting in a window, opened on an unprecedented scale, on early monasticism, inspired by the Columban mission to Scotland in the late 6th century AD. It was a truly collaborative venture, involving survey on the Tarbat peninsula, the full excavation of the Church of St Colman and a one hectare sample of the area within the enclosure that surrounds the church. It was carried out in collaboration with a host of institutions: chief amongst them are the Department of Archaeology at York, Field Archaeology Specialists, the Tarbat Historic Trust, Historic Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Highland Council, the European Research and Development Fund, and Ross and Cromarty Enterprise. For more information on the project, including all its Bulletins and Data Structure Reports, see <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/staff/sites/tarbat/>

Field Archaeology Specialists was involved in the Tarbat project right from the start. One of its directors, Justin Garner-Lahire, seen here excavating the mill, writes:



"By 1993 FAS had been formed, and Martin was looking for new research opportunities. The invitation to study a possible early Christian site in Pictland was particularly tempting. The first two evaluation seasons produced promising results, but did not betray the enormity of the project we were about to embark on. The early years of the project were particularly demanding for Martin, with the pressures of designing the research programme, the church restoration and display design, and fund-raising for the entire project, on top of writing-up Sutton Hoo, and his Head of Department and teaching obligations. The site itself then turned out to be the most archaeologically challenging that any of us had encountered, but proved to be rewarding in equal measure - the rise and fall of a Pictish monastery, its cemetery and workshops with fine metal-working, beautiful sculpture, vellum-making and much, much more. For me, managing Tarbat proved to be a formative experience, and I thank Martin for the opportunity, and particularly for his unwavering support through some difficult times. With much relief all round, the fieldwork was finally completed in 2007 and we are now embarking on the post-excitation

and write-up. Typically, he's already written and published a book on the project!

Martin, I'm so pleased you are giving up the day job. I'm very much looking forward to spending more time working with you on new and existing projects."

JUSTIN GARNER-LAHIRES

Cecily Spall first came to Tarbat as a York undergraduate some 12 years ago. It is her dedication to the project, her impeccable standards of fieldwork and recording, and her flair for combining the material culture with the site data that have made her Martin's remarkable co-director on the project. She writes:

"It is difficult to summarise Tarbat without being either too serious or too irreverent. Tarbat was an unusually rich site in many ways and many things to many people - over 300 people worked there. Martin's sixth sense was aroused when he first visited the Port and the ensuing fourteen years of excavation meant lots of happy rewarding days on site for lots of students, volunteers and archaeologists. Off-site, life in the Port was memorable for impromptu ceilidhs in the marquee kicked off by Martin (dulcet tones) and Donald Urquhart (on the accordion). Several thrusty bouts of 'Stripping the Willow' later, many bruised bingo wings, several partnerships, marriages and subsequent children can be owed to Tarbat's special mixing pot. By way of a tribute, a small collection of anecdotes from working with Martin follows interspersed with some of the less serious photographs in the project archive.



What've you found that's good?

On one particularly overcast, warm and windless day the midges descended and proceeded to attack. For Martin, in typical military strategist fashion, the decision that his best defence would be to dig in his T-shirt vest and wrap his shirt around his head Ali Baba-style was quickly taken. To complete his turbaned look Martin added unpredictable slapping of his remaining exposed flesh accompanied by some muttering. This resulted in reddened skin marked with the small black corpses of many midges. That same morning a large coach party visited the museum and having seen the exhibition two tourists came to have a look at the dig. A well-boned man and his (nearly identical) mother, having established that Martin was our leader, shouted across the fence in a broad Bradford accent: "What've you found that's good?" Needless to say Martin initially feigned deafness - his shirt-turban must have been playing with his hearing. When the Bradfordians persisted by shouting "Have you found any gold or swords?" Martin, who could resist no longer, popped his

head above the trench and replied in all seriousness: "No, they're further down". Naturally enough the tourists were totally satisfied with his response and happily boarded their coach.

It seems only fitting to finish the contribution with some poetry - Martin always manages to effortlessly blend his writing with some appropriate poetry and I've attempted to do the same for old time's sake wi' a bit o Rabbie (my translation in brackets in the spirit of Tarbat):

*For auld land syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne
We'll tak a cup of kindness yet (pint of whisky)
For auld lang syne*

*And there's a hand my trusty fiere (friend)
And gie's a hand o thine
And we'll tak a right guid willie-waught (erm...)
For auld land syne"*

CECILY SPALL

Cecily contributed these photographs of Martin in action at Tarbat.



Martin prepares to delicately remove the ancient Pictish 'Dragon Stone' from the vault of the crypt



Martin digging the Tarbat enclosure ditch while an enslaved Jacques practices sign language



Martin on the weekly site tour tries to persuade us that he is standing in a Roman bathhouse



Martin and our old dig dog Jasper

There were many highlights at Tarbat: the thrill of uncovering remarkable artworks, not only in the church's fabric, where they were more or less expected, but out in the open area excavation (pictured here). Coming face to face with an image emerging from the soil is a unique experience, shared here by three Carvers. More painstaking, but of enormous import, was the piecing together of the hundreds of fragments of material evidence which showed that Portmahomack was indeed a monastic site which manufactured fine ecclesiastical metalwork and parchment (see Carver & Spall 2004). While originally reluctant to see Portmahomack as a monastery, Martin has come to endorse the monastic model - albeit a very idiosyncratic form of monastic establishment - which was discussed in a series of seminars with guests from Britain and Ireland during summer 2007. A true 'Iona of the East' (see Carver 2004).



Click to enlarge

As at Sutton Hoo, the campaigns were conducted on a number of different fronts. On site they involved the participation of a professional Unit, of volunteers - local and from outside, including Carver children - and of a training school of the University of York (the team is assembled here in 1997). It included the full excavation of the Church of St Colman, prior to its conversion into a museum: the church is shown here under excavation, as is its team and Louise Henderson (later Brennan) recording the hundreds of skeletons and disarticulated human bones from the church's long sequence. Sarah King who analysed the bones found that the early burials of the 6th to 9th centuries were almost all adult males. The possibility that they were monks is a very real one.



Click to enlarge

As at Sutton Hoo too, the long-term survival of the church and its site has been a concern. It resulted in the conversion of the church into the Tarbat Discovery Centre, opened by Prince Charles in 1999, whose helicopter got stuck in the mud of the Glebe field. For more information, see the Centre's website: <http://www.tarbat-discovery.co.uk/>



The fieldwork at Tarbat ended in 2007, leaving Martin, Cecily, and many collaborators with the task to produce the full research report. The team will no longer be such frequent visitors to the Castle pub but it is sure of a welcome in the Port, as Martin has made so many friends there.



References (MOHC bibliography)

- 1995 (ed.). Bulletin of the Tarbat Discovery Programme 1.
- 1996 (ed.). Bulletin of the Tarbat Discovery Programme 2.
- 1997 (ed.). Bulletin of the Tarbat Discovery Programme 3.
- 1998. Hilton of Cadboll: an archaeological assessment and project design. Unpublished report, University of York.
- 1998 (ed.). Bulletin of the Tarbat Discovery Programme 4.
- 1999 (ed.). Bulletin of the Tarbat Discovery Programme 5.
- 1999. Exhibition text for Tarbat Discovery Centre (opened by Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay October 1999).
- 1999 (with Elizabeth Hooper). Discovery at Tarbat (site guidebook).
- 2000 (ed.). Bulletin of the Tarbat Discovery Programme 6.
- 2001. Tarbat, in M. Lynch (ed.) The Oxford Companion to Scottish History: 594-5. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2002 (ed.). Bulletin of the Tarbat Discovery Programme 7 (2001-2002).
- 2004. An Iona of the East: the early medieval monastery at Portmahomack, Tarbat Ness. Medieval Archaeology 48: 1-30.
- 2004 (with Cecily Spall). Excavating a parchmenterie: archaeological correlates of making parchment at the Pictish monastery at Portmahomack, Easter Ross. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland 134.

- 2004 (ed., prepared by Cecily Spall). Tarbat Discovery Programme, data structure report 2004.
- 2004. Prize-winner, English Heritage/CADW/Historic Scotland open prize for communicating research to the public (BAAS meeting, Exeter).
- 2005 (ed., prepared by Cecily Spall). Tarbat Discovery Programme, data structure report 2005.
- 2006. A Columban monastery in Pictland. *Current Archaeology* 205: 20-29.
- 2006 (ed., prepared by Cecily Spall). Tarbat Discovery Programme, data structure report 2006.
- 2008. Portmahomack: monastery of the Picts. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- 2008. Post-Pictish problems: the Moray firthlands in the 9th-11th centuries. Rosemarkie: Groam House Museum.
- 2008. The Pictish monastery at Portmahomack (Jarow lecture 2008). Newcastle: Bealin.
- In prep. (with Cecily Spall). The early monastery at Portmahomack, Tarbat Ness, Ross-shire. Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

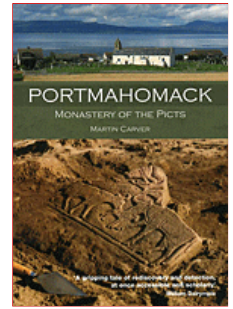
[Back to top](#)

Thinking about iconography (MOHC bibliography)

This section contains bibliographical references to publications on iconography not already mentioned in the site-specific references to Tarbat.

- 1979. Contribution to P.V. Addyman & I. Goodall: The Norman church and door at Stillingfleet. *Archaeologia* 106: 74-105.
- 1980. A 12th century tympanum fragment at Caverswall, Staffordshire. *North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies* 20: 1-8.
- 1986. Contemporary artefacts illustrated in Late Saxon manuscripts. *Archaeologia* 108: 117-45.
- 1999. *Surviving in symbols: a visit to the Pictish nation* (The Making of Scotland series). Edinburgh: Canongate (reprinted 2005 by Birlinn & Historic Scotland).
- 1999. Shielding identity: some comments on objects and images in Pictish carving, in S. Bennett (ed.) *Pictish Art* (Proceedings of a conference held at Elgin): 7-9. Elgin: Elgin Museum.
- 1999. Review of I.M. Stead *The Salisbury Hoard*. *British Museum Magazine* 33: 39.
- 2005. *Sculpture in action: contexts for the stone carving on the Tarbat peninsula, Easter Ross*, in S. Foster & M. Cross (ed.) *Able minds and practised hands: Scotland's early medieval sculpture in the 21st century* (Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph). Leeds: Maney & Edinburgh: Historic Scotland.
- 2007. Review of R. Cramp *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture, volume VII: South-West England in Antiquity* 81: 238-40.

[Back to top](#)



Contents:

- [Teaching at York](#)
- [Editing Antiquity](#)

Teaching at York

Here colleagues and former students show in their various ways their appreciation of Martin in his post at the Department of Archaeology at the University of York.

Philip Rahtz, Emeritus Professor at York and the first occupant of the Chair of Archaeology at the University of York, created in 1978, writes:

"It seems strange to me that Martin is retiring - it doesn't seem that long since he was appointed, so fast has time gone. I've been continually delighted that, under his guidance, the department which I had the privilege of starting has become so prestigious.

I have known Martin for many decades. We first came into contact when I was at Birmingham and he was a free-lance archaeologist, as I had been - his development and importance to archaeology was never in doubt. We have in common that neither of us started with a full academic education [in archaeology] and we have both shared a love of archaeology in all its guises. We are close in our interests and outlook on life and it's been very interesting to see how Sutton Hoo and Tarbat have been so extraordinarily successful. Antiquity, under his hands, has developed both a renewed importance and also brought much to York. I've enjoyed an enlivened read under his editorship.

I don't know how unusual it is fro an ex-professor still to be around when his successor retires, but I'm very pleased to have lived long enough to see how then Department of Archaeology has flourished in his hands, as has his own career and wider life. I hope he has as long a retirement as I have had and is able to continue to be active and influential. I also hope our friendship will last for many years to come. Happy retirement!"

PHILIP RAHTZ

Tania Dickinson, the first lecturer to be appointed in the Department of Archaeology at York and eminent Anglo-Saxonist, writes:

"Here is my earliest memory of Martin or rather, in the face of my feeble brain, the photograph has become the memory. The place was Brockhampton Park, Herefordshire, the date 1977, and the occasion my visiting Lower Linceter, Sue Hirst's 'country house' idyllically set amongst the Worcestershire orchards. Martin and Madeleine, respectively Director of WEMRAC and a student in the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham, lived there in a breeze-block barn. A lithe Martin letting his hair down in a game of leap-frog encapsulates his joie de vivre, but might not seem relevant to archaeology or York. On the same occasion, however, Philip Rahtz and Lorna Watts were also guests at Linceter: there was much talk of the establishment of a new Department of Archaeology at York, and of Philip's chances of being selected as the first professor - very slim, he thought. Little did we imagine that Philip would be selected, that a year later I would be appointed as the first lecturer in the Department, and that Martin would succeed to the Chair on Philip's retirement. Isn't history fascinating, Martin, our own and that of the early Middle Ages! I wish you the very best for your 'retirement'."

TANIA DICKINSON

Don Brothwell, Emeritus Professor at York and very active member of the Bioarchaeology group, writes:



[Click to enlarge](#)

"About seventeen years ago, I wrote to Martin from the Institute of Archaeology in London, to say I intended to spend my final academic years beyond London in another university. My feeling was that York would be ideal. I had been involved with York students between 1968 and 1973, when some of Sid Bradley's students came to excavate with me in the Orkneys. I had also been involved in the development of the York Environmental Archaeology Unit, and I had always considered that there was great potential for the expansion of archaeological science in York University - particularly Bioarchaeology. With the creation and development of an archaeology department, this seemed a distinct opportunity, and most importantly when I discussed this with Martin, I got a very enthusiastic response. I don't know to what extent Martin had a hard time arranging for me to be taken on by the University, but fortunately Ron Cook, the new vice-chancellor and environmental geographer, must have looked favourably on the proposal by Martin. So I have Martin's enthusiasm and support to thank for my arrival in York, and I'd like to say that having previously been involved in teaching at Cambridge and London, my time in York has been the most pleasant of all. Martin's initial effort to get me to York has been followed by the further expansion of Bioarchaeology, in collaboration with the

Biology and Chemistry departments. So Martin, I believe your initial and long-term support has resulted in the creation of the best team of university researchers and teachers in Bioarchaeology in Britain, if not in Europe and beyond. I hope that university history will give you proper credit for this."

DON BROTHWELL

Matthew Collins, Professor of Bioarchaeology at the University of York, heads BioArch, a joint initiative between the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Archaeology (he is also Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). He writes:

"Ever since meeting Martin for the first time (at the BBC launch of Blood of Vikings held at the Jorvik Centre) he has been an inspiration. Little did I realise, having admitted to him, that much of the new field of 'biomolecular' Archaeology was over-sold, that soon I would be joining his department as a well ..., er..., um..., Biomolecular Archaeologist! My job was mortgaged against this retirement, so I have more reason than most to be grateful to him.

As a newbie in the Department and in Archaeology, Martin was a tremendous support, not only intellectually but also practically, giving freely of his time to an ignorant upstart. Martin's strongly held views, on field archaeology, the role of science, and future directions in the field are shared with conviction, wit and good humour.



[Click to enlarge](#)



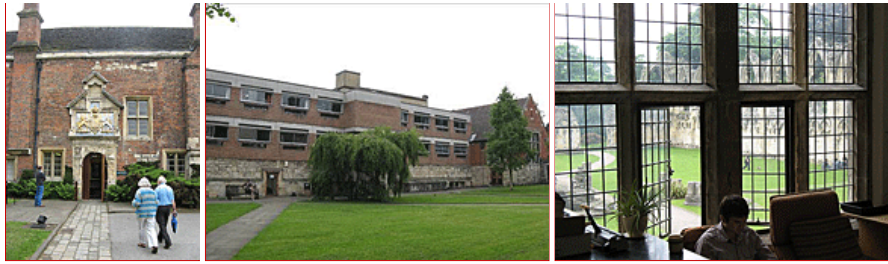
[Click to enlarge](#)

*Martin's great strength is his enduring enthusiasm for the whole of subject. Everything about archaeology seems to interest and excite him. His knowledge is encyclopaedic and his passion heartfelt. I cannot imagine anyone better suited to editing the flagship journal *Antiquity*. Remarkably Martin undervalues himself; we now learn that the daily rate he charges is lower than your average plumber, what a bargain!*

I am delighted that he has been made an Emeritus Professor; the Department without Martin would be like York without the Vikings, perhaps a little tidier, but much less interesting."

MATTHEW COLLINS

Julian Richards, the current Head of Department and fellow early medievalist and editor, writes:



[Click to enlarge](#)

"Martin has been a part of my archaeological career for the last 40 years. From my first encounter with him as an earnest research student who wanted to discuss single context planning in Stafford, to working together in our shared commitment to the Department of Archaeology in York, I have been impressed by his tolerance of the young. On IFA Council I witnessed his skilled navigation of the competing ethical priorities created by the WAC schism; at Sutton Hoo I watched how a general runs an excavation. The dinner parties at East Mount Road were a hallmark of an academic world that once existed but is now too often lost under the weight of management accountants and health and safety audits, and will be remembered by all. Throughout his time in York, Martin has been both an inspiration and a stimulus. I know that this won't stop with his retirement and that there are generations of York students to come who will learn from him, and hopefully also a few bureaucrats who will be exasperated by him. Long may this continue."

JULIAN RICHARDS

Jane Grenville, who was Head of the Department of Archaeology between 2001 and 2006, is now Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Students at the University of York. She recalls her first encounter with Martin in an 'eerily deserted Micklegate House' [though it was not as bad as this 2008 picture of its interior; Priscilla's office was on the left, Martin's on the right].



[Click to enlarge](#)

"I turned up for my first day at work in 1988 and found myself in an eerily deserted Micklegate House. I'd been interviewed about six weeks previously and was to work principally with Richard Morris at the CBA but as a Research Associate of the Department, and for that reason, I'd been instructed to report to Prof Carver in the departmental office that soggy October morning. There was no Priscilla [Roxburgh, the Departmental administrator from 1978 to 2005] that day. After a while, Martin appeared in a really awful mac (which happily I don't think I ever saw again) so I smiled hopefully as he swept past, a galleon in full sail, and into his room. I waited. Some time later he re-emerged and I tried my very best new girl smile. 'Priscilla's gone to Harrogate for the day', he said, which didn't help much since at that stage I had no idea who Priscilla might be. 'Oh really?' I said, weakly. 'Well, you are looking for her, aren't you?' 'No, you, actually - I'm the new CBA Historic Buildings Officer, I was told to come here on my first morning.' 'Good God! But you look completely different! What have you done? Have you dyed your hair?' And so began a rich, sometimes combative, always inspiring friendship. Thanks, Martin - I'm not taking your 'retirement' too seriously - here's to more!"

JANE GRENVILLE

Steve Roskams, who has been a lecturer in the Department since the very early days, shares Martin's conviction that field archaeology deserves debate. He writes:

"I first crossed paths with Martin longer ago than either of us probably want to remember (some three decades), introduced by a mutual friend at a party. We first crossed swords, however, albeit in friendly fashion, at a conference in Birmingham organised (inevitably) to discuss the role of recording in archaeology. I don't really remember what we actually argued about but do remember that commonality of interest. Here was someone who had the same interests as me and was prepared to think, and talk, about them, though not as if it was the most important thing in the world - serious, but not that serious."

A few years on, and we met again when I was on the interview panel to choose the replacement for Phillip Rahtz as Head of Department. I had expected the process of choosing the new Head to be a difficult one but, in the event, Martin made it easy for us. He was able to relate to the 'dirt digger' in me as easily as to the academic substance of Barry Cunliffe, the external advisor on the panel. Even the very snappy pin-striped suit which Martin wore that day did not put me off. So I will bask in reflected glory for having been part of the process that brought him to York."

Since his arrival here, having Martin around has been to my huge benefit, and to that of many others. Experiencing his ability to see things in an entirely different way from most people has been a rewarding exercise - something I had expected to get from the academic life but have encountered too rarely. Often I can't see what he is getting at, at least in the first instance (am I alone in this?), and sometimes I understand but don't agree (ditto). But on other occasions, he can be truly incisive, for example taking a research question for a student in a completely novel direction - truly remarkable. Finally, he has rescued me from the doldrums on important occasions. A few years ago, when I was finding it difficult to write anything for publication, he offered to co-author a paper, then surreptitiously dropped out when I had got going (though one reviewer still panned my piece and praised another of his in the same volume to the skies - perhaps he's more astute than I realised!).

Anyway, thanks for all the conversations and stimulation over the years, Martin. And for all those on this website who insist on putting the word retirement in quotes - ignore them. Go and relax - though I still expect to see you on site on a wind-swept hillside or down a deep hole encouraging me to use 'feature' recording sheets as part of the excavation process. You never know, one day I just might - but don't hold your breath."

STEVE ROSKAMS

Martin inspired many students, in the lecture theatre, in the seminar room, in the field and in supervisorials. Here some of his students tell us what it was like.

Neil Price, now Professor of archaeology at the University of Aberdeen, writes:

Memories of Martin



[Click to enlarge](#)

"I first met Martin in 1984 on a visit (also my first) to Sutton Hoo, just before the start of the project and the year before I went to university. He was alone on site, and gave me and Phil Emery - who later did an MA at York - an impromptu tour of the mounds with what I would come to realise was his usual charisma. Since then we've talked, drank and laughed at countless conferences and meetings, and I don't believe I've encountered anyone else who combines the same qualities of intellectual brilliance, vivid originality and, above all, wit: he's one of the most entertaining people I've ever met.

I got to know him better at York where I originally began my PhD, before 'failing to complete' and eventually finishing it 14 years later in Uppsala. In the end, Martin was my external examiner and he never let me forget how long it had taken to finally get the book written. Before the party after my defence, I shared with the examining committee a remarkable bottle of Madeira that I had been saving for the occasion, a vintage from 1870. Martin mentioned this in his after-dinner speech before adding, "and just think, the person who made it was still alive when Neil began work on his thesis". We all have so many memories of Martin, but for me what encapsulates him was the fantastic performance he gave earlier that day at the viva, which in Sweden is a public event. My doctorate was about Norse supernatural beings, and a sample of his speech, which was later published, gives the flavour: "We meet some delightful human characters in the other world, as cosy and quirky as any other community. Indeed they reminded me irresistibly of a typical University archaeology department: there were the bossy, the angry, the predatory, the sex-mad, the 'wind man' and of course 'the old one in furs'".

My doctoral research examined, amongst other things, a particular kind of iron staff used in the Viking Age practice of sorcery; my friends had presented me with a 'replica' that included, as I remember, large amounts of glitter, tinsel and a revolving disco ball on the top. My last sight of it [at the party that followed the examination, where this characteristic picture of Martin was taken] was when it was in Martin's hands as he led fellow revellers towards the dance floor at about two in the morning; I never did find out what he did with it!"

NEIL PRICE



[Click to enlarge](#)

Sam Turner, now lecturer in archaeology at the University of Newcastle, writes:

"Martin was my York PhD supervisor. I'd started under another advisor but we didn't see eye to eye, so (unbeknown to me) Tania Dickinson asked Martin if he'd take me on. When I returned to the King's Manor after the Christmas break - rather downhearted with lack of progress - Martin bounded across the courtyard and told me with a grin he was going to be my new supervisor. Knowing him only by his fearsome professional reputation I was struck with terror, but within a week or two I discovered how his challenging and rigorous manner was never confrontational, but tempered by generosity, warmth and a real concern to get the best out of his students.

Supervisions with Martin suited me perfectly. Mercifully they weren't too frequent (I think these were the days before universities laid down rules about the minimum numbers of supervision per month!), but whenever they did happen they were entertaining, illuminating and could lead to months of happy work. Martin allowed me to talk and present my plans - patiently asking for explanations of the most half-baked points - before firing out myriad ideas in the witty, learned and engaging style for which he is justly famous. Some of these we abandoned, and some I stole for my PhD, but all deserved careful consideration. The result of Martin's encouraging style was a relaxed, collaborative atmosphere that stimulated imagination and creativity, and really made supervisions an enjoyable, constructive experience.

I won't apologise if that sounds unduly adulatory - that's just how I remember it!"

SAM TURNER

Helen Geake, now Finds Adviser (Post-Roman Artefacts) to the Portable Antiquities Scheme at Cambridge University, writes:



[Click to enlarge](#)

"Martin supervised my DPhil at York from 1990 to 1995. When you do five years of research into a single topic, your focus inevitably narrows drastically and the wonderful thing about Martin was the way in which he always hauled me back again to look at the wider picture.

Half an hour with Martin (and a gin and whatever-there-is-in-the-fridge in your hand) and you go from feeling utterly pointless to seeing that your research is actually of national - no, European! - significance. We, here, now, are doing the most exciting work there is. This is the best place to be and right now we are going - we fourteen people around this table after a seminar - to have a good meal and a lot to drink and several cigarettes, and really make some progress in understanding why life is as it is.

Life with Martin is not just 'work' - not just understanding the past - but using the past and present to understand both. The party, the campfire, the two or three gathered together in a Portakabin with a bottle of whisky, provide insights which can then be tested in the field or the library. Living life helps to understand life.

Imagine my surprise when, towards the end of my DPhil, I found out that he had been doing other things all the time as well, like being Head of Department. Martin made me feel that nothing and no-one was more important and interesting than I was - and I've never felt quite the same way since."

HELEN GEAKE



[Click to enlarge](#)

The picture shows Martin after a few drinks at a staff/student cricket match, c. 1995.

Dan Hull, now Head of Information and Communications at the Council for British Archaeology, writes:

"I have known Martin since my days as a timid undergraduate at Micklegate House in 1994. His World Archaeology course inspired and encouraged my interest in Islamic archaeology and the Middle East, and a few years later he became my PhD supervisor as I returned with wide-eyed ambitions of digging up a Syrian monastery. Martin diplomatically both redirected me and expanded my horizons, encouraging me to think landscape-wide and to begin asking bigger questions than I'd dared to do myself. Suddenly I found myself in supervisorials discussing everything and everyone from tax reform and phenomenology to Cassiodorus and Edward Said, and with a terrifying data 'set' ranging from Iraq to northern Scotland. Eventually, we pared this down somewhat, and I settled in for a thoroughly enjoyable research journey with Martin at the helm. He is tirelessly curious of spirituality, making me deconstruct but not dismiss its motivations, and leading me to examine the interface between religious fervour and social rebellion. On a not unconnected theme, we also worked together on the Diversity in the Curriculum Project (with Wendy Romer) in 2005, devising and discussing ways of broadening social diversity within our undergraduate intake. After 10 years this brought me back to his World Archaeology course - still showing us all the breadth of questions that can be asked, and the endless diversity, of the human journey."

[Click to enlarge](#)

DAN HULL

Nicky Toop, who is an essential member of the Tarbat team and of Field Archaeology Specialists (FAS), completed her PhD two years ago. She writes:



[Click to enlarge](#)

"Martin's enthusiasm was probably partly responsible for me applying for a PhD in the first place, and had you asked me during my final year of writing up I wouldn't always have been suitably grateful for that encouragement! Having said that, the end product was worth it, and I would never have completed the thesis without the comments, challenges and ideas that he provided over the four years. While juggling hundreds of projects at once, Martin always managed to find time for reading and commenting on work, and supervision sessions in his hectic office were always entertaining as well as useful. As my supervisor, I benefited from his hallmark critique tempered with kindness - he could take a hurriedly-written chapter, tear it apart, and take it off in many new directions (and sometimes back again), yet afterwards you'd still feel confident about writing the new version. As someone who appears to have an unending supply of ideas, he is very generous with them - more than once offering praise for an idea that he provided in the first place!"

NICKY TOOP

[Back to top](#)

EDITING ANTIQUITY

"Our field is the Earth, our range in time a million years or so, our subject the human race." (O.G.S. Crawford, founder of *Antiquity* in his first editorial in 1927).

Becoming editor of *Antiquity* was, and continues to be, a huge privilege. Martin writes in his first editorial (March 2003, *Antiquity* 77: 5):

"The editorial policy (...) remains the same as it has for 75 years - to present the results of recent research to the extended archaeological family. (...) In these days of increasing specialisation, even researchers in different periods sometimes have difficulty understanding each other, while a thickening fog continues to rise between archaeologists in Universities and those serving the commercial sector. Our extended archaeological family includes not only all these professionals, and those of other disciplines with whom we work - chemists, linguists, geneticists - but people in other walks of life for whom the revelations of the past can provide a sustaining nectar. Thirty years ago your new editor was such a person..."

In the past 5 years, while excellence as a learned journal evidently remains the top priority, that aim of making even the most abstruse academic article comprehensible to the extended archaeological family has never been lost. In 2008 *Antiquity* will have received around 240 article submissions, published 78 in the journal (research, debate and method articles, as well as a substantial reviews section) and almost as many online in the Project Gallery. The York team consists of Martin (editor), Jo Tozer (editorial manager) and Madeleine Hummler (reviews editor), backed by Portland Press who produce the journal and with the direction and support of the Antiquity Trust (Professors Warwick Bray, John Coles, Barry Cunliffe, Anthony Harding, Paul Mellars, Colin Renfrew, Stephen Shennan and Graeme Barker) and the Antiquity Company directors (Dr Joan Oates, Prof Martin Millett, Prof Anthony Snodgrass, Chris Evans, Andrew Rogerson, Richard Skaer and Roger Guthrie)

[Click to enlarge](#)



Joan Oates, chairman of the Antiquity Company between 2002 and 2006 writes:

"Martin Carver is a man of many parts. One of his most recent roles has been as Editor of *Antiquity*, one of the oldest and most prestigious archaeological journals. *Antiquity* was founded by O.G.S. Crawford in 1927 as an independent journal, which it remains to this day. Now owned by the Antiquity Trust, set up under the editorship of Glyn Daniel (1958), all editors following Crawford (Martin is the fifth) have remained faithful to Crawford's desire to present worldwide archaeological discoveries quickly to the widest possible readership, a hallmark of *Antiquity*.

An extremely 'hands on' editor, Martin has covered, both in his editorials and his selection of papers, not only wide areas of archaeological science and discovery but also an extensive range of theoretical debates and matters of more general professional and public interest. Certainly the journal has remained both informative and eminently readable under his direction. As Editor he is responsible to the Trustees and, in the daily running of the journal, to the Directors of Antiquity Publications Ltd (owned by the Trust). Recently, with the assistance of Martin and the publishers, the Directors took two of the most significant decisions in the journal's history, to produce *Antiquity* simultaneously both online and in the paper version and to create an electronic archive of all the back numbers. These innovations have proved extraordinarily successful, and Martin is to be congratulated for the role he has played in these major changes.

Each Editor has stamped his or her own personality on the journal and in particular on the editorials. Certainly we look forward to Martin's wit and wisdom for the remainder of his editorship."

JOAN OATES

Antiquity volumes published under Martin Carver's editorship (to date)

- 2003, volume 77: 900 pages
- 2004, volume 78: 996 pages
- 2005, volume 79: 1013 pages
- 2006, volume 80: 1056 pages
- 2007, volume 81: 1152 pages
- 2008, volume 82: 1182 pages

In 2005 *Antiquity* was delighted to be Runner up in the Charlesworth Award for best journal from the Association of Learned, Professional and Scientific Publishers (ALPSP). Emily Smyth (now Morrell) went to get the prize. She was editorial assistant at *Antiquity* between 2003 and 2006, and is now publications manager at the Institute of Historical Research based in the University of London. She writes:

"Working for Martin at *Antiquity* was an interesting experience. It was my first 'proper' job and I had so much to learn, and working for Martin I was

thrown in at the deep end. I realised what great skill Martin has at turning the most incomprehensible paper by a Japanese or Russian author into a fascinating, incisive piece of writing, and I learnt a lot. Thanks, Martin, for inspiring me with great ideas, listening to my opinions, giving me great work experience and making me smile. Have a fantastic retirement - try not to end up working even harder than you did before retirement - now's your chance to do the things you really want to do. Enjoy."

EMILY MORRELL

Part of the job of editor is to represent *Antiquity* at major international conferences, routinely attending such events as EAA, WAC, SAA and TAG, on the look-out for new research and feeling the pulse of archaeology. Martin has been a well-recognised figure on the conference circuit, never failing to enjoy the après-conference scene, but also relishing the exchanges during the serious parts as Neil Price recalls:

"I think my most vivid conference memory of Martin was from the '92 Medieval Europe at York, when he was chairing a session and closed it with a wonderful summing-up that perhaps went on a little too long. Someone in the audience clearly thought so, as a paper plane flew onto the stage from the auditorium, landing neatly at Martin's feet. He opened it up and laughed, turning it to the audience so they could read the block capital message inside: "SHUT UP".

NEIL PRICE

Thinking about publication (MOHC bibliography)

Already before becoming editor of *Antiquity*, how to publish archaeology was a major interest, and the editorship of *Antiquity* has allowed Martin to explore the subject further, including the future of learned journals.

- 1985. The friendly user, in M.A. Cooper & J.D. Richards (ed.) *Current issues in archaeological computing* (BAR S271): 47-61. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports.
- 1992 (with H. Chapman, B. Cunliffe, T. Hassall, M. Hebditch, A. Lawson, I. Longworth, R. Morris, D. Phillipson, J. Schofield & G. Wainwright). *Archaeological publication, archives and collections: towards a national policy*. London: Society of Antiquaries of London.
- 2007. The future of *Antiquity*, in M. Rundkvist (ed.) *Scholarly journals between the past and the future: the Fornvännen centenary round-table seminar, Stockholm 21 April 2006* (Konferenser 65): 30-49. Stockholm: Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien.
- In press 2008. Archaeology journals, academics and Open Access. *European Journal of Archaeology*.

[Back to top](#)

Valedictory Messages

In summer 2008, the Department of Archaeology at York celebrated its 30th anniversary. Claire McNamara, the Department's administrator, collected these messages from former students and colleagues on this occasion.

Congratulations Martin, + all the best for your retirement. We will try not to break the department while you're away. All the best
Steve Ashby

I hope you enjoy your new life of leisure! I am sure you'll find something to keep you from getting too bored. I am not sure GSB and BOS meetings are going to be as fun without you, though... Congratulations!
Aleks McClain

Have a fantastic and well-deserved retirement! Congratulations! Thank you for much excellent teaching. The department won't be the same without you. All the best
Hayley Saul

Congratulations Martin. Thank you very much. I am so glad of having met you on Castelseprio. All the best
Stefania Merlo Perring



[Click to enlarge](#)

I remember when I first started at York, the rumour was that only ladies with blonde hair got through the interview for a place (if they had been interviewed with you Martin) - however, this clearly was not the case and I was relieved to see a whole range of interesting and fabulous people to share my time with, doing archaeology. You were a truly flamboyant and fun Head of department - Thank you.
Alexis M. Willey (1993-1997)

Martin - I can't imagine 'retirement' is really in your vocabulary! However, do enjoy it. My abiding memory of Tarbat is of a soggy ceilidh and you calling for 'Flower of Scotland', beer-glass in hand. Many thanks for all your help during my time at York. Best wishes
Abigail (2000/1)

Martin, very best wishes - I'm sure you shall not be bored and will enjoy as ever life with archaeology!
Friederike Hammer

I find you, Martin, the most exciting, cheerful and enthusiastic person in the King's Manor. All the best!
Navin Piplani, Hamlyn Feilden Fellow 2008

Martin - you've been my hero, my friend and the reason that I am still in archaeology (if only just, these days). Thanks for all your help, support and continuing enthusiasm. I know where to find you. Love
Annette Roe

I can't believe you'll actually retire Martin, but enjoy yourself! All the best
Claire C...

Best wishes for your 'retirement' Martin ... hopefully it will provide a period of relief from rebellious slide projectors ...
Kathryn Turner

Martin,
Who would have thought when you interviewed me in 1992 (aged 16 years!) that it would be the start of a hero worship that has lasted me all this time. You are one of the main reasons I am an archaeologist and I cannot thank you enough for so many giggles and glasses of whisky! Good luck with Antiquity and the Tarbat write-up. The department will be a worse place for your retirement. With much love
Candy



[Click to enlarge](#)

You may recall our first meeting, I do. Not knowing I would move to York in a few years, I told you (at a reception held at Jorvik) that actually most of bioarchaeological science was in my opinion oversold. Since arriving at York, it has been a great pleasure to work with you, although I don't think I have proved myself wrong. It has been great fun nevertheless, not in small part because of you.
MJC



Martin,
Wishing you + your family the very best of things in your 'retirement'. Many, many thanks for making the undergraduate degree what it was, and thanks most of all for spawning the Tarbat Discovery project, which has been a big part of my life - though memories are a bit hazy! All the best my dear
Jools (Juliet Reeves/Giecco)

Click to enlarge

Martin,

All the best for your 'retirement'. I'm very grateful that you asked me some searching questions in the kitchen one year at Tarbat, which changed my path! Thank you and best wishes for your ongoing projects

Leo O'Brien

Martin,

Retirement? Surely not! Being one of those 'eldest children of ex-hippies' I really feel the York course was created with me in mind! Thank you so much for masterminding an undergraduate course that truly gave me the best possible start to a colourful (if not particularly erudite) archaeological career ... Best wishes to you & all the family

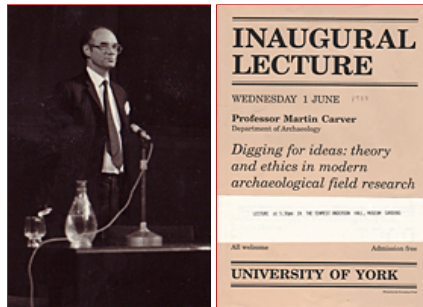
Nellie Finch

Fondly remember all the tents blowing down at Sutton Hoo (in '91?) ... and sand in the food! Many best wishes on your retirement

Catherine Rousseau



Click to enlarge



Click to enlarge

The scene is the Museum gardens, following Martin's inaugural lecture. A somewhat huffy Eminent Archaeologist comments that he doesn't believe in the Sutton Hoo 'Sand men'. "Carver by name, carver by nature" he harrumphs. Martin is quite unconcerned. "Surely" he says mildly, "you don't credit me with that much imagination?". One simply could not have asked for a more supportive, insightful, constructively eccentric friend and colleague. Thanks, mate
T... (illegible)

Enjoy your retirement Martin - I'm sure you'll end up busier than ever, and still involved with the department. I have so many great memories of my time as a student and of course at Antiquity. Many thanks!

Emily

Well I never dug at Tarbat, but I still remember your lectures and also your dancing at the end of term parties! I had a wonderful 3 years at the department and much of the atmosphere was attributable to you. Many thanks

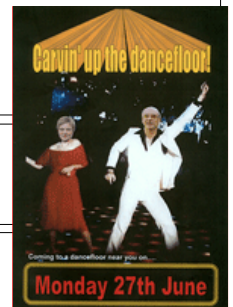
Sarah

Enjoy your retirement - enjoy many years of rest & reminiscing

Kate Bowden

'Retirement' and 'archaeology' are two words which don't sound believable together, and especially so for a man like yourself - however, I sincerely hope that you enjoy your time. All the best,

Mark R...



Click to enlarge

Best wishes on your retirement. I went to Sutton Hoo for the first time this last year and was very impressed - great to hear your voice coming through the headsets! You have been a true ambassador for York archaeology. Best wishes

Helena Carr

Martin, all the very best for your future retirement. It was a wonderful 3 years as an archaeology student at York, I really enjoyed your lectures - thank you

Wendy Lloyd-Sweet

Ciao Martin

I do thank you for the inspiration and enthusiasm I have learned during the years I have worked on your projects. Good luck for the future

Gigi

Dear Martin,

It's been a long time since I first turned up (late) to your lecture in my first year. I spent many a time in my degree wondering what it was all about! From the time I turned up late for Sutton Hoo to the end of my days at FAS I must have raised an eyebrow at least. Best wishes for your retirement. You have taught me more than you will ever know and I thank you dearly for it. Keep the faith and enjoy life. Best wishes

Steve

Dear Martin,
With all best wishes for your retirement (!) Coming to York/Sutton Hoo determined the course of my life for good/bad/indifferent. Thank you for your part in making my life what it is - always interested in what happens above ground and below! Hope you can enjoy the future with your inspirational family, friends and work & all good things to come!
Katie Timms (Lister)

Hi Martin,
You never taught us. but the stories were flowing and we've seen the photos.
Matt, ..., Laura, Dan.

And finally, Jay Carver, who has followed his father's footsteps in archaeology - he is Principal Archaeological Consultant at Scott Wilson Ltd - sends his love and his thoughts on retirement:

Dictionary: 1 a: an act of retiring : the state of being retired b: withdrawal from one's position or occupation or from active working life.

Dad I hear you're retiring but of course we all know that there is no such word to describe yourself! Retiring no! Energy comes to mind, creativity and real enjoyment developing new ways of understanding our planet-earth-history (archaeology is too narrow for your interests) and new ways of translating that knowledge into the present and future, yes. Tirelessly! You have been a constant inspiration although it may not be the way of all of us (!): the early (really early!) riser with tea and toast/cereal (whatever to hand) to hit the keyboard (today, earlier it was paper and pen!) to craft another account, thought, synopsis, synthesis from data wrought with careful method from the ground and archives - to provide a story, an interpretation of social human beings' actions (those you love and admire) for the benefit of future human endeavours - all before most of us are about ready for a day's work and of course after that day then late into the night debating the real meaning of it all! No I can't imagine you'll ever retire from your mission! Only perhaps, after so astonishing a contribution to so many people's personal and professional lives, to be able to expand some of your other 'sideline' interests: Travel! Poetry! Art! Music! Friends! More books! Especially I demand, that soon to be classic 'Field Archaeology'! Xronia Polla; Sto μελλον;

All my love.

Jay

[Back to top](#)